

SEARCH FOR THE LIGHT™

MICHAEL TURNER'S
SOULFIRE

HOPE · DESPAIR · FAITH · POWER · GRACE

Hope

J.T. KRUL
JOSE VARLESE · MARK ROSLAN
BRETT SMITH · JOSH REED



#1

COVER A



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COVER B



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M I C H A E L T U R N E R ' S
SOULFIRE™
Hope

Story—

J.T. KRUL

Pencils—

JOSE VARESE

Colors—

BRETT SMITH

Letters—

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MICHAEL TURNER'S SOULFIRE™ HOPE

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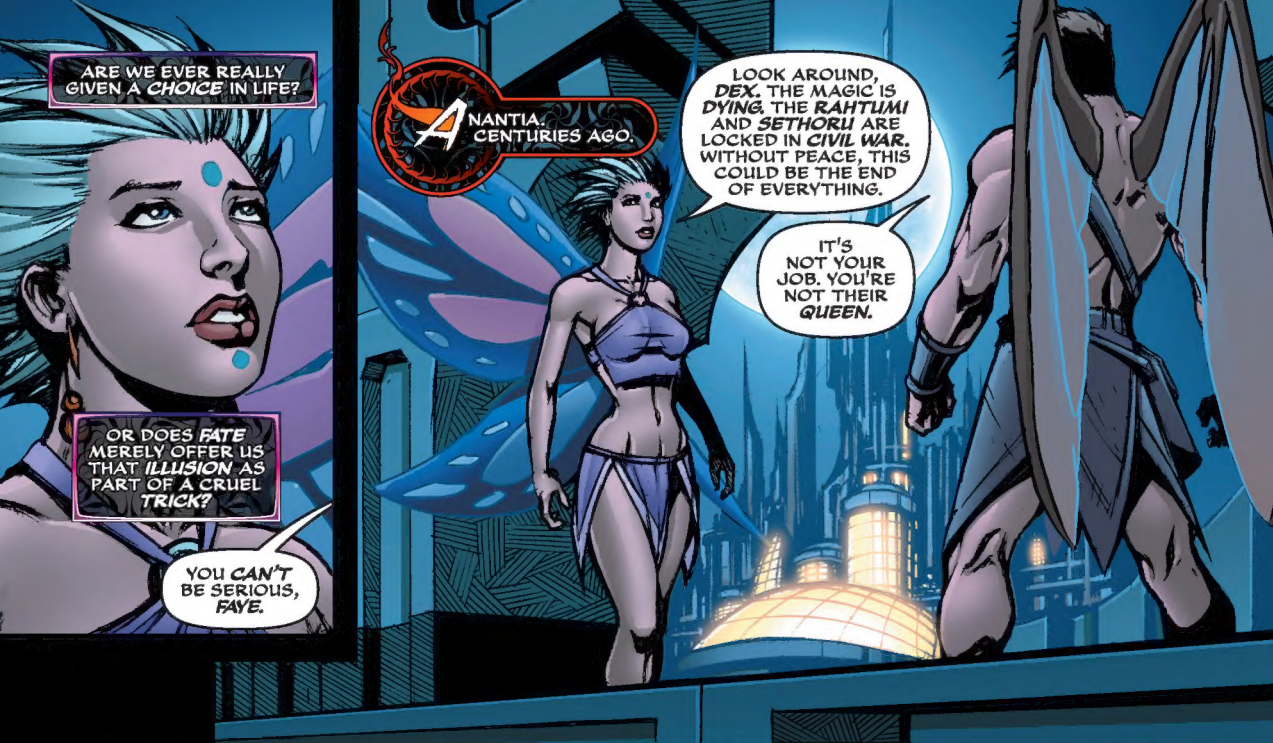
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ARE WE EVER REALLY GIVEN A CHOICE IN LIFE?

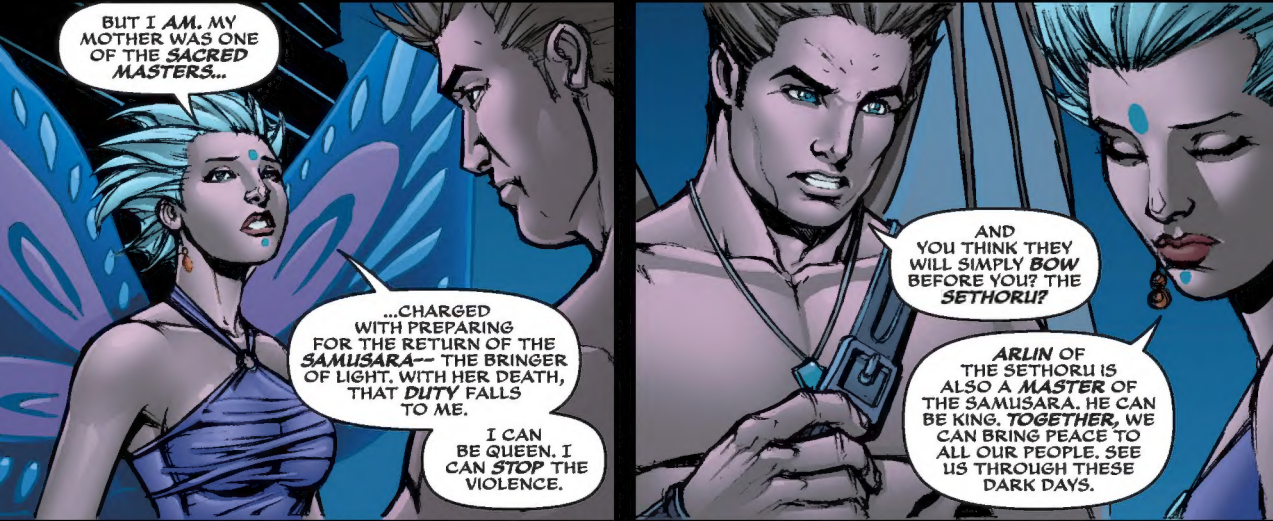
A NANTIA, CENTURIES AGO.

LOOK AROUND, DEX. THE MAGIC IS DYING. THE RAHTUMI AND SETHORU ARE LOCKED IN CIVIL WAR. WITHOUT PEACE, THIS COULD BE THE END OF EVERYTHING.

IT'S NOT YOUR JOB. YOU'RE NOT THEIR QUEEN.

OR DOES FATE MERELY OFFER US THAT ILLUSION AS PART OF A CRUEL TRICK?

YOU CAN'T BE SERIOUS, FAYE.



BUT I AM. MY MOTHER WAS ONE OF THE SACRED MASTERS...

...CHARGED WITH PREPARING FOR THE RETURN OF THE SAMUSARA-- THE BRINGER OF LIGHT. WITH HER DEATH, THAT DUTY FALLS TO ME.

I CAN BE QUEEN. I CAN STOP THE VIOLENCE.

AND YOU THINK THEY WILL SIMPLY BOW BEFORE YOU? THE SETHORU?

ARLIN OF THE SETHORU IS ALSO A MASTER OF THE SAMUSARA. HE CAN BE KING. TOGETHER, WE CAN BRING PEACE TO ALL OUR PEOPLE. SEE US THROUGH THESE DARK DAYS.



WELL--- IT SEEMS YOU'VE THOUGHT THIS ALL THOUGH. IT'S VERY AMBITIOUS. I HOPE IT'S WHAT YOU WANT.

I'M SURE YOU AND ARLIN WILL MAKE A GREAT COUPLE.

I-I NEVER SAID I WAS GOING TO MARRY HIM.

I SACRIFICED EVERYTHING FOR MY PEOPLE, GRACE--



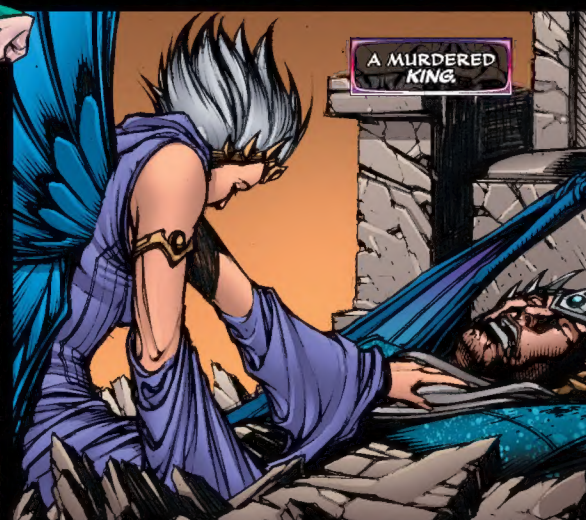
--SEEING
WHERE WE ARE
NOW, I HAVE TO
WONDER-- WAS
IT WORTH IT?



WHEN MALIKAI FULFILLED HIS
DESTINY AS THE SAMUSARA,
BRINGING THE MAGIC BACK, IT
WAS SUPPOSED TO SIGNAL THE
BEGINNING OF A NEW AGE
OF WONDER.



INSTEAD THERE
WAS MORE OF THE
SAME. VIOLENCE.
BETRAYAL. WAR.



A MURDERED
KING.



AND AS QUICKLY
AS IT RETURNED,
THE MAGIC WAS
SNUFFED OUT
AGAIN.



THE LIGHT
IS DYING ONCE
MORE, AND WE HAVE
NOTHING TO SHOW
FOR IT.

WE DON'T
KNOW THAT
MALIKAI IS
DEAD.

THE SKIES
ARE EMPTY. THE
DRAGONS ARE GONE.
NEXT OUR WINGS WILL
WITHER AWAY.

YOU
DON'T KNOW
THAT.



I KNOW
THAT OUR
KINGDOM IS
FALLING APART.
ONYX'S ACTIONS
HAVE BROKEN
OUR FRAGILE
ALLIANCE.

I NEED TO
FIX
THAT.



YOU THINK
THIS IS THE
ANSWER?

IF YOU
HAVE A
BETTER
IDEA--

--I'M ALL
EARS.





LONG HAS
THE BOND BETWEEN
THE **SETHORU** AND THE
RAHTUMI KEPT BOTH
RACES FROM DESPAIR
OVER THE DARKEST
OF AGES.

ARLIN'S DEATH
AT THE HANDS OF
A TRAITOR WAS A
TRAGEDY. HE WAS MORE
THAN A KING. HE WAS A
FRIEND. IT IS BECAUSE OF
HIM THAT **ANANTIA** AND
ITS PEOPLE HAVE
ENDURED.

WITH A
NEW KING CROWNED,
I KNOW THAT WE WILL BE
UNITED ONCE MORE-- WITH
THE STRENGTH TO FACE
WHATEVER **CHALLENGES**
THE **FUTURE** BRINGS.



ABOVE ALL
ELSE, A KING MUST
POSSESS STRENGTH,
DETERMINATION,
COURAGE, AND
VALOR.

THROUGH THIS
TOURNAMENT, YOU
WARRIORS SHALL PROVE
YOUR WORTH. BATTLING
FOR THE **CROWN**, THE
THRONE--



--AND
MY HAND IN
MARRIAGE.

SIDE BY
SIDE, WE SHALL
FORGE A FUTURE
BRIGHTER THAN
EVER.



HOWEVER, THIS
COMPETITION IS **NOT** A
MATCH TO THE **DEATH**. FOR,
TRUE VICTORY IS OFTEN
GAINED ONLY THROUGH
MERCY.



AND, I
BELIEVE WE
HAVE SEEN ENOUGH
BLOODSHED TO LAST
US ANOTHER
CENTURY.

NO
BLOODSHED?



WHERE'S
THE FUN IN
THAT?

HOPE YOU
HAVE ROOM FOR
ONE MORE.

HOW
ABOUT
ROYALTY
THEN?

YOU MUST
BE MISTAKEN. THIS
COMPETITION IS FOR
WARRIORS, NOT
CHILDREN.

AAAAHHH!



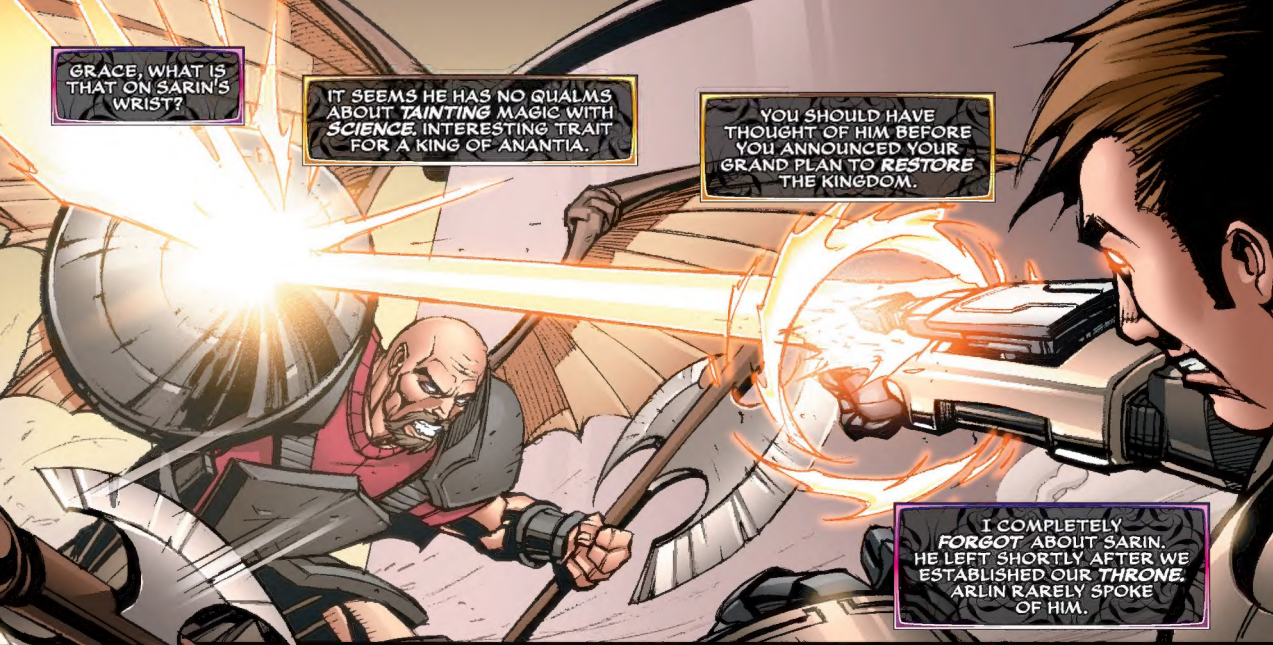
MY NAME IS SARIN. SON OF ARLIN.

AS YOU CAN SEE, LIFE IN THE OUTSIDE WORLD HAS BEEN GOOD TO ME. THE ROLE OF PRINCE NEVER APPEALED TO ME--

--BUT KING SARIN. THAT HAS A NICE RING TO IT.

DON'T WORRY, THE SHOW WILL GO ON.

THE CROWN IS MINE BY BIRTH.



GRACE, WHAT IS THAT ON SARIN'S WRIST?

IT SEEMS HE HAS NO QUALMS ABOUT **TAINTING** MAGIC WITH **SCIENCE**. INTERESTING TRAIT FOR A KING OF ANANTIA.

YOU SHOULD HAVE THOUGHT OF HIM BEFORE YOU ANNOUNCED YOUR **GRAND PLAN TO RESTORE** THE KINGDOM.

I COMPLETELY **FORGOT** ABOUT SARIN. HE LEFT SHORTLY AFTER WE ESTABLISHED OUR **THRONE**. ARLIN RARELY SPOKE OF HIM.



YOUR **TOYS** WILL NOT WORK ON ME, BOY.

I ALWAYS HAD THE FEELING HE WAS **RELIEVED** THAT SARIN WENT AWAY.



THEY ARE NOT **TOYS**. NOR ARE THEY **CRUTCHES** FOR ME.

I AM FULLY CAPABLE OF **BESTING** YOU IN ANY **MANNER** POSSIBLE.



NNNN—!

I—I **YIELD**. YOU HAVE **WON**.



TELL ME SOMETHING I DON'T KNOW.

ARRGHH!

ANY IDEA
WHO THAT
ONE IS?

WORD OF YOUR
TOURNAMENT HAS
SPREAD WELL BEYOND
THE KINGDOM. I DO NOT
RECOGNIZE MANY OF
THESE WARRIORS.

DO YOU
FEAR YOUR
NEW LOVE MAY BE
AN UNSIGHTLY
WRETCH?

I WOULD
GLADLY ACCEPT A
MONSTROUS
FACE
OVER A MONSTROUS
HEART. BUT I AM
NOT DOING THIS
FOR LOVE.

THIS IS FOR
THE PEOPLE.

AND MUST YOU
LOSE IN ORDER TO
FOR THEM TO WIN?

I SURE
HOPE NOT.

I TRIED TO
CONVINCE MYSELF
THAT I WASN'T
TAKING SIDES.

THAT IT DIDN'T
MATTER WHO
WON.

BUT AS THE BATTLES
CONTINUED, I SAW
INTO THEIR *SOULS*.

STRENGTH.

RAGE.

FEAR.

PAIN.

CRUELTY.





SO THIS IS WHAT MY FATE HAS COME TO-- TWO PATHS. TWO WARRIORS. TWO KINGS. ONE MORE BATTLE TO DECIDE.

NO. LOOK AT THE **PEOPLE**, GRACE. BEFORE, THEY WERE SAD, ANGRY, BITTER-- **BEATEN**.

GIVEN THE LIMITED CHOICES, DO YOU WISH YOU **RECONSIDERED** YOUR PLAN?

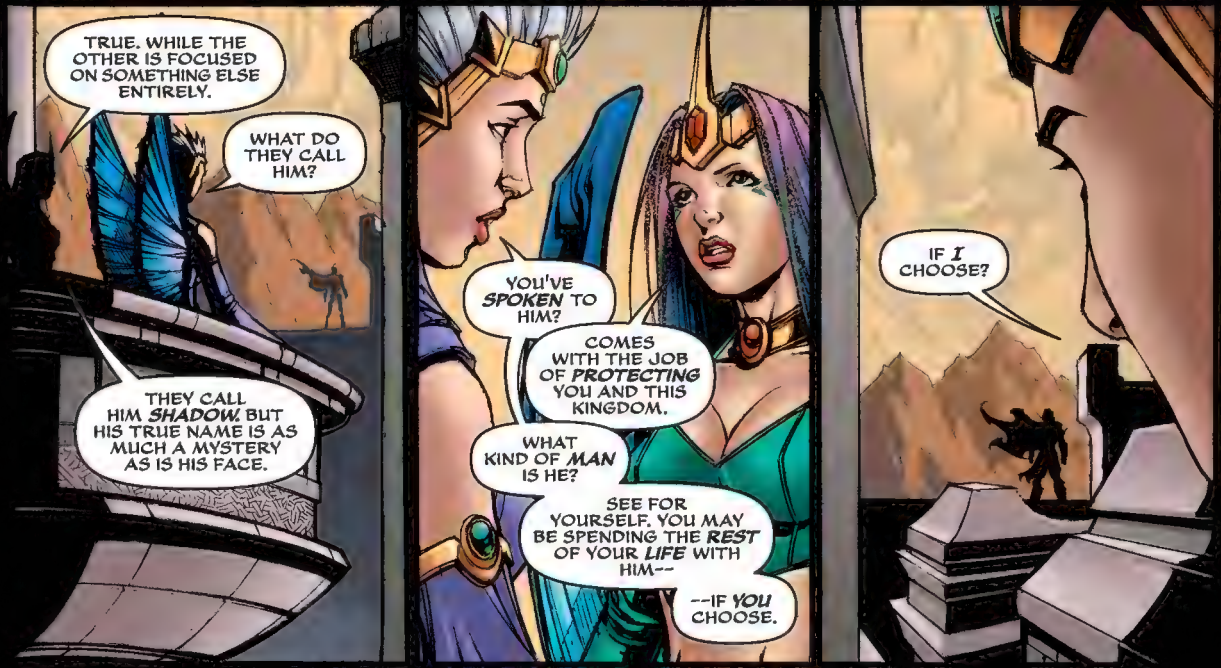
NOW, THEY ARE **CELEBRATING**. NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS TOMORROW, I DO NOT **REGRET** THAT.

YOU SHALL FILL THE THRONE NICELY, SARIN.



I REMEMBER IT BEING A LOT BIGGER.

HE CAN PRACTICALLY TASTE THE POWER.



TRUE. WHILE THE OTHER IS FOCUSED ON SOMETHING ELSE ENTIRELY.

WHAT DO THEY CALL HIM?

THEY CALL HIM **SHADOW**. BUT HIS TRUE NAME IS AS MUCH A MYSTERY AS IS HIS FACE.

YOU'VE **SPOKEN** TO HIM?

COMES WITH THE JOB OF **PROTECTING** YOU AND THIS KINGDOM.

WHAT KIND OF MAN IS HE?

SEE FOR YOURSELF. YOU MAY BE SPENDING THE **REST** OF YOUR **LIFE** WITH HIM--

--IF YOU CHOOSE.

IF I CHOOSE?



YOU ARE MISSING YOUR OWN CELEBRATION.

WHAT IS THERE TO CELEBRATE? I HAVE NOT WON ANYTHING.

BUT YOU ARE CLOSE. ONE MORE MATCH. ONE MORE CHANCE TO PROVE YOUR WORTH. WIN YOUR PRIZE.

I AM NOT AFTER SOME PRIZE.



YOU ARE MORE RIGHT THAN YOU CAN IMAGINE. THE THRONE IS NOT AN AWARD. IT IS A DUTY--

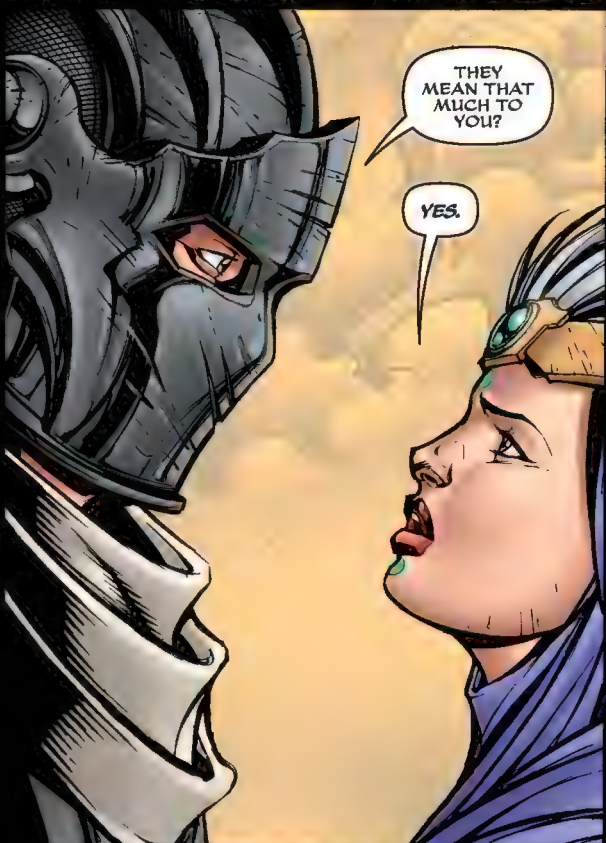
--A RESPONSIBILITY. ONE THAT REQUIRES STRENGTH AND SACRIFICE.

YOU SPEAK FROM EXPERIENCE?



I DO.

IT IS NOT ABOUT SOME GRAND CHAIR OR PIECE OF JEWELRY THAT RESTS UPON YOUR HEAD. IT IS ABOUT THE PEOPLE. SERVING THEM. PROTECTING THEM.



THEY MEAN THAT MUCH TO YOU?

YES.



I ALWAYS KNEW YOU'D MAKE A GREAT MOTHER, FAYE.



DEX???

W-WHAT
ARE YOU
DOING?

ISN'T IT
OBVIOUS? I
CAME BACK
FOR YOU.



I NEVER
SHOULD HAVE
LEFT. I LET MY
PRIDE GET IN THE
WAY. I WANTED
YOU **ALL** TO
MYSELF.

WALKING
AWAY FROM YOU
WAS THE BIGGEST
MISTAKE I EVER
MADE.

WHEN I
HEARD ABOUT
ARLIN AND WHAT
YOU WERE PLANNING,
I HAD TO COME. YOU
CAN'T **MARRY**
ANYONE ELSE.

DEX, YOU...
YOU...

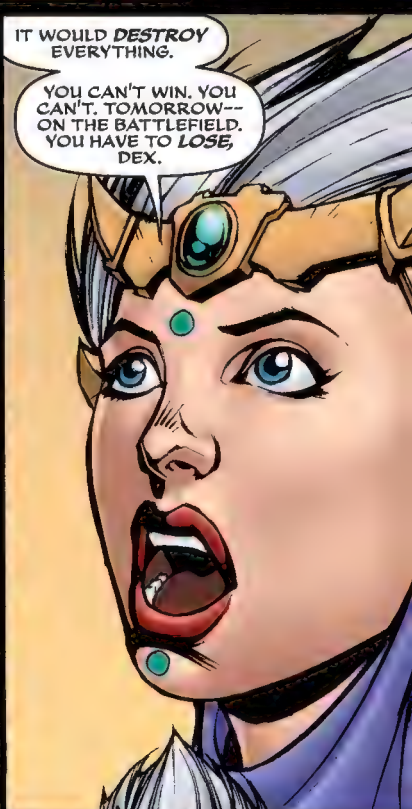


...YOU **CAN'T**
DO THIS. IF ANYONE
FINDS OUT IT'S **YOU**--
THE ENTIRE KINGDOM
WILL **REVOLT**.

I DIDN'T
COME HERE TO
CHEAT. I CAME TO
WIN **FAIRLY**. UNLIKE
SARIN. THAT KID IS
A **MONSTER**,
FAYE.

BUT-- YOU ARE
NOT A **SETHORU**.
THEY'LL NEVER **ACCEPT**
A **RAHTUMI** KING
AND QUEEN.

BUT--



IT WOULD **DESTROY**
EVERYTHING.

YOU CAN'T WIN. YOU
CAN'T. TOMORROW--
ON THE BATTLEFIELD.
YOU HAVE TO **LOSE**,
DEX.



I'M **SORRY**.

YOU MEAN I
HAVE TO **LOSE**
AGAIN?



TODAY, TWO WARRIORS
STAND BEFORE US. EACH ONE
SEEKING TO ASCEND TO THE
THRONE. THE RAHTUMI AND
THE SETHORU HAVE THEIR
DIFFERENCES, BUT WE CAN
ALL AGREE THAT WHEN IT
COMES TO A KING--

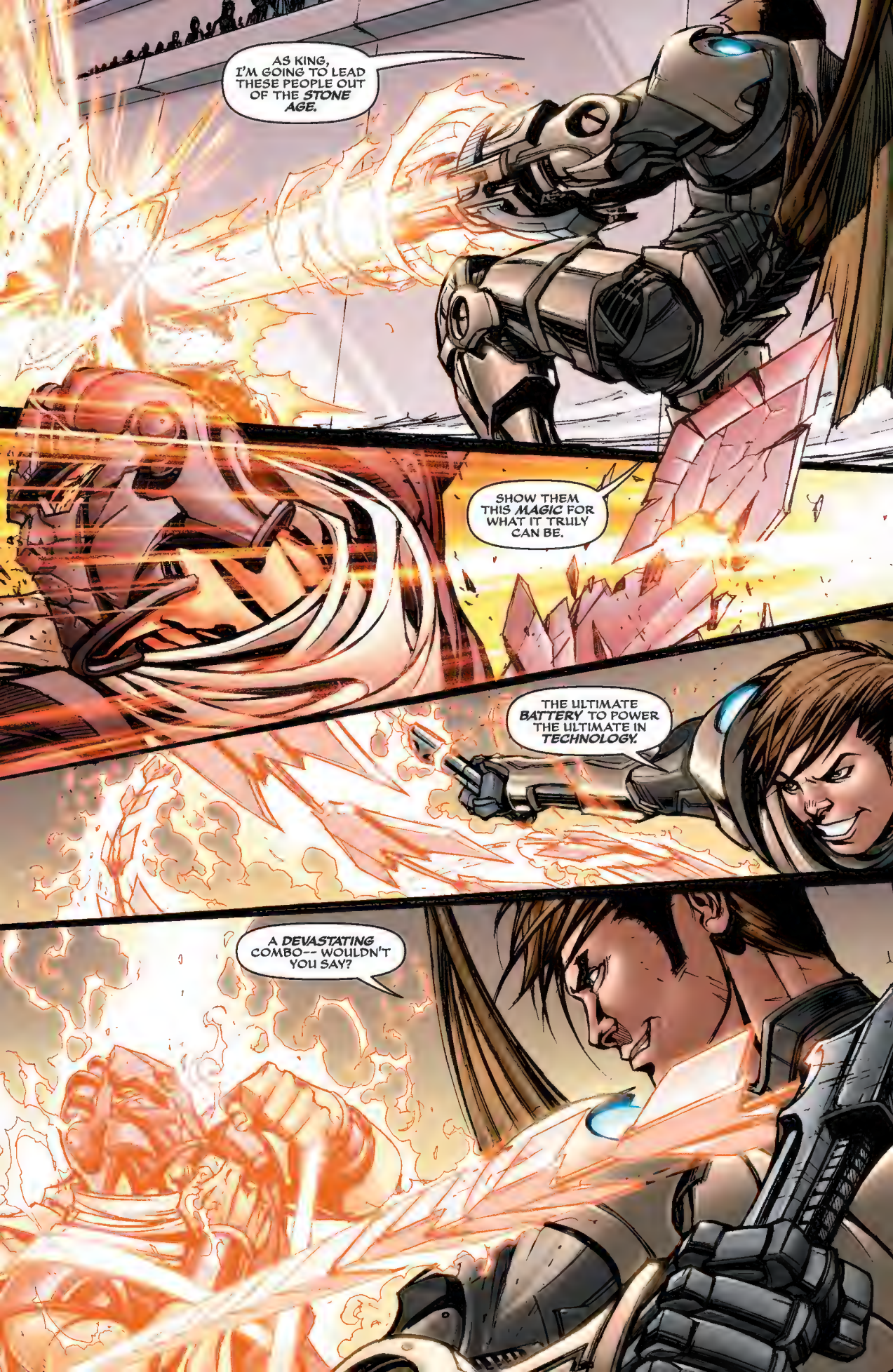
...IT'S A
MATTER OF
CHARACTER...

...NOT
POWER.

IN YOUR
HEARTS, YOU BOTH
KNOW THAT ONLY
ONE OF YOU CAN
BE KING.

HEAR
THAT?

SHE'S
TALKING
ABOUT
ME.

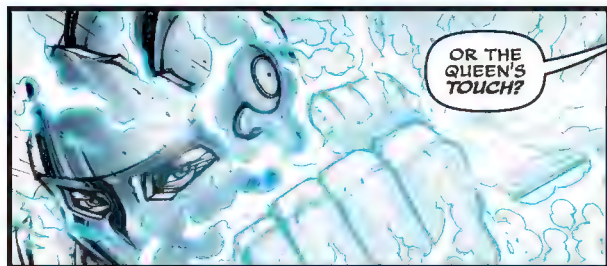
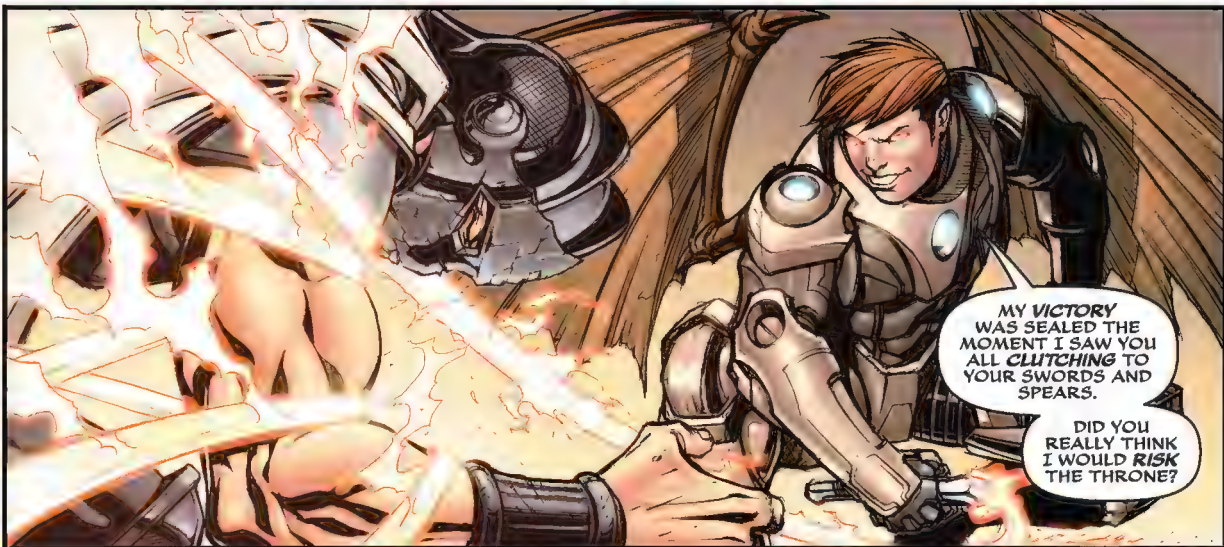


AS KING,
I'M GOING TO LEAD
THESE PEOPLE OUT
OF THE *STONE*
AGE.

SHOW THEM
THIS *MAGIC* FOR
WHAT IT TRULY
CAN BE.

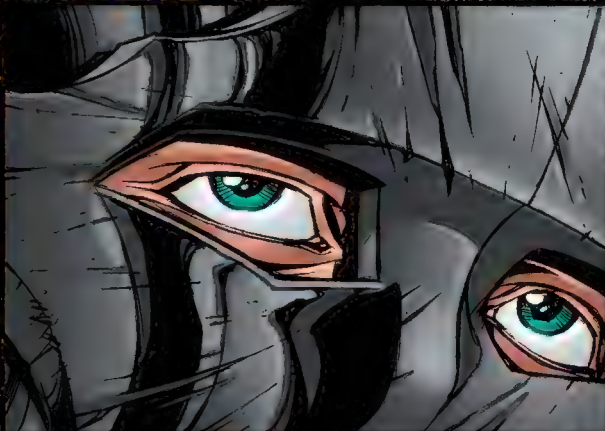
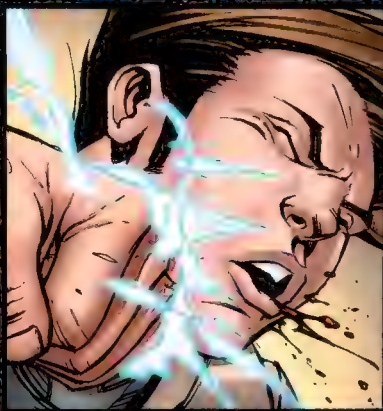
THE ULTIMATE
BATTERY TO POWER
THE ULTIMATE IN
TECHNOLOGY.

A DEVASTATING
COMBO-- WOULDN'T
YOU SAY?





GAHHHHH!



NOT BAD...

HE'S GOING TO WIN.



...BUT
YOU LACK
THAT KILLER
INSTINCT.



SARIN!

SARIN!

BEHOLD--
YOUR NEW
KING!

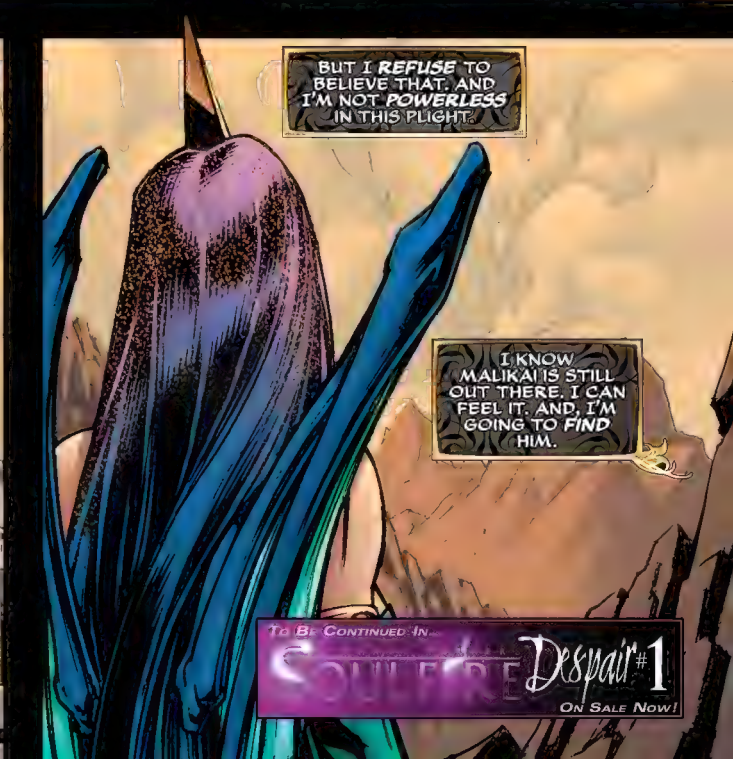
SARIN!

SARIN!

SARIN!



GRACE,
WHAT HAVE
I DONE?



SEARCH FOR THE LIGHT

MICHAEL TURNER'S
SOULFIRE

DESPAIR FAITH II

Despair

DAVID SCHWARTZ
BRYAN MARTE - CHAZ RIGGS
RYA OUAH - JOSH REED



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SEARCH FOR THE LIGHT™

MICHAEL TURNER'S

SOULFIRE™

HOPE DESPAIR FAITH POWER GRACE

Despair

DAVID SCHWARTZ
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SEARCH FOR THE LIGHT

HOPE · DESPAIR · FAITH · POWER · GRACE

MICHAEL TURNER'S SOULFIRE™ *Despair*

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Pencils—

JONATHAN MARKS

Colors—

SIYA OUM, JOHN STARR, TEODORO GONZALEZ

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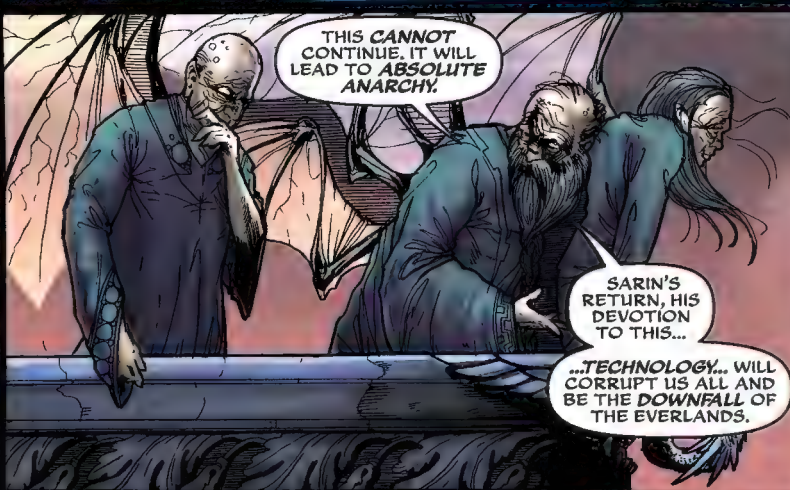
TRY IT.



WHOA!



PRACTICE WITH IT, BIG GUY. REFINE YOUR USE OF IT.



THIS CANNOT CONTINUE. IT WILL LEAD TO ABSOLUTE ANARCHY.

SARIN'S RETURN, HIS DEVOTION TO THIS...

...TECHNOLOGY... WILL CORRUPT US ALL AND BE THE DOWNFALL OF THE EVERLANDS.



HOW COULD FAYE POSSIBLY HAVE ALLOWED SARIN TO BECOME HER KING?



MY LORD, MY LADY, WITH ALL DUE RESPECT, THIS INTRODUCTION OF TECHNOLOGY GOES AGAINST THE VERY SPIRIT OF OUR MAGIC--

--THREATENING ALL THAT WE HOLD DEAR.



THAT'S WHY WE'VE ALWAYS HAD A BARRIER **PROTECTING** THE EVERLANDS, KEEPING TECHNOLOGY OUT.

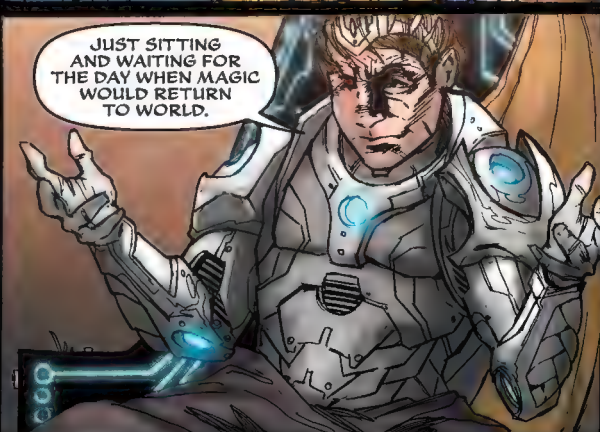
I BEG OF YOU--



--THAT'S EXACTLY THE PROBLEM.

FOR CENTURIES NOW, THIS PLACE-- THIS HIDDEN CITY-- HAS **STOOD STILL**, ALLOWING TIME TO PASS IT BY.

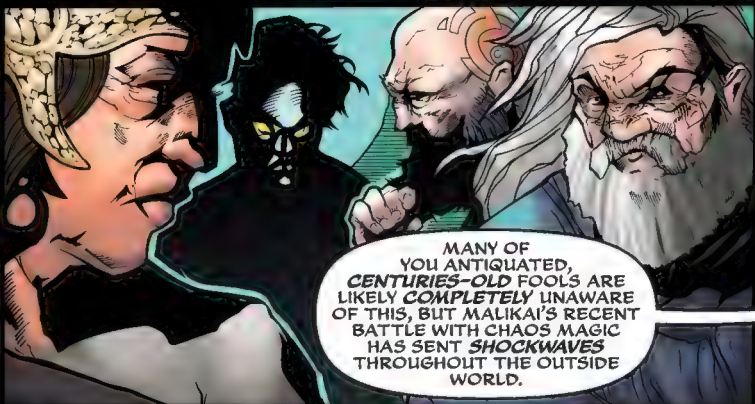
KEEPING ALL TRACES OF THE HUMAN WORLD OUT, AND ALLOWING THAT OUTSIDE WORLD TO ADVANCE **FAR BEYOND** OUR OWN MEANS, WHILE WE SAT STILL AND DID **NOTHING** BUT BEMOAN OUR LOST WINGS AND WAGE THE OCCASIONAL INANE RACE AMONGST OURSELVES.



JUST SITTING AND WAITING FOR THE DAY WHEN MAGIC WOULD RETURN TO WORLD.



NOW THAT I HAVE THE **PLEASURE** OF FINALLY TAKING MY **RIGHTFUL PLACE** AS YOUR NEW KING, I'D LIKE TO-- WELL, LET'S JUST SAY THAT IT'S TIME TO MAKE SOME **BIG CHANGES** AROUND HERE.



MANY OF YOU ANTIQUATED, CENTURIES-OLD FOOLS ARE LIKELY COMPLETELY UNAWARE OF THIS, BUT MALIKAI'S RECENT BATTLE WITH CHAOS MAGIC HAS SENT **SHOCKWAVES** THROUGHOUT THE OUTSIDE WORLD.



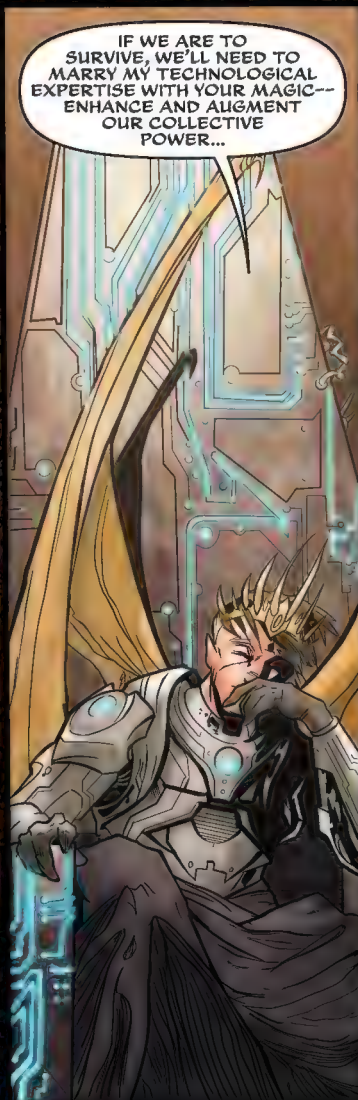
CHAOS MAGIC NOW PULSES THROUGH THE HUMAN WORLD, BUT THEY HAVE NO KNOWLEDGE OF HOW TO **CONTROL** IT, NOR DO THEY HAVE THE INHERENT PHYSICAL ABILITY TO DO SO. HUMAN CIVILIZATION HAS BEEN OVERTAKEN BY **UNIMAGINABLE** TURMOIL.



AT SOME POINT, THAT MAGIC WILL LEAD THE HUMANS BACK TO US. THEY'LL REALIZE THAT WE'RE HERE, AND THAT IT'S OUR OWN INEPTITUDE THAT UNLEASHED THIS CHAOS ON THEIR WORLD.



WE'LL HAVE TO DEFEND OUR SMALL KINGDOM AGAINST ALL HUMANITY.



IF WE ARE TO SURVIVE, WE'LL NEED TO MARRY MY TECHNOLOGICAL EXPERTISE WITH YOUR MAGIC-- ENHANCE AND AUGMENT OUR COLLECTIVE POWER...



...AND MAKE US INTO A FORCE THAT IS VIRTUALLY **UNSTOPPABLE**.



LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, AND I USE BOTH TERMS OH SO VERY LOOSELY, I'D LIKE YOU TO MEET MY CLOSEST FRIENDS.

"THEY'RE **ABSOLUTE** AND **UNADULTERATED** **TECH GENIUSES**, AND THEY'RE HERE TO HELP US **USE** TECHNOLOGY TO **ENHANCE** AND **CHANNEL** OUR **MAGIC**."

"THEY'RE A **NECESSITY** FOR **TWO** **REASONS**. **FIRST**, BECAUSE NO ONE HERE IN THE **EVERLANDS** HAS **ANY** **EXPERTISE** IN **DESIGNING** AND **CONSTRUCTING** THE **TECH** THAT THE **FUTURE** I **ENVISION** FOR US WILL **REQUIRE**."

SARIN, WHAT YOU SUGGEST IS, QUITE FRANKLY, **BLASPHEMY**. WE ARE **BEINGS** OF **MAGIC**. WE HAVE WAITED **CENTURIES** FOR THE **MAGIC** TO **RETURN**."

WE WILL **NOT** **ABANDON** IT NOW, **NOT** **GIVE** IN TO **DESPAIR** THAT IT WILL BE **INSUFFICIENT**."

TECHNOLOGY HAS **NO** **PLACE** IN THE **EVERLANDS**. **TECHNOLOGY** **CORRUPTS**, IT **DISTRACTS** FROM THE **THINGS** THAT ARE **IMPORTANT** IN **LIFE**. IT IS **COLD**, **HARD** AND **SOULLESS**."

"**SECOND**, AND **EVEN MORE IMPORTANTLY...** BECAUSE YOU'RE ALL JUST SO **SHELTERED** AND **UNEDUCATED** AND **STODGY** AND **BORING**, I **NEED** TO HAVE **SOME** **PEOPLE** **AROUND** I CAN **ACTUALLY** HAVE AN **INTELLIGENT** **CONVERSATION** WITH."

EXACTLY!

WE WILL **NOT** **AGREE** TO **THIS!**

ENOUGH OF YOUR **INSULTS** AND **HERESY!**

ENOUGH!

I'M YOUR **KING**. I'M **IN CHARGE**. I'M **THE ONE** WHOSE **BEEEN** **OUT THERE** AND **SEEN** THE **WORLD**, **SEEN** HOW **MUCH** **TECHNOLOGY** CAN **IMPROVE** OUR **LIVES**."

I'M **THE ONE** WITH **THE PERSPECTIVE**. **THIS** IS MY **DEGREE** AND **YOU SHALL** **ALL FOLLOW** IT."

TRUST ME. **FAYE**, MY **DEAR**, **GIVE** IT A **CHANCE**. I **ASK** ALL OF **YOU** TO **TRY** TO **SEE** **PAST** YOUR **OWN** **PREJUDICES** AND **PREDILECTIONS** AND **CONSIDER** THAT **MAYBE**, JUST **MAYBE**, THEY'RE **OUTDATED**."

YOU'LL **COME** TO **SEE** THAT-- I'M **RIGHT**, AND THAT **TECHNOLOGY** WILL **MAKE** US **EVEN** **MORE** **PROSPEROUS...**

...AND **UNIMAGINABLY** **POWERFUL...**

...THAN YOU **COULD** HAVE **EVER** **DREAMED** **POSSIBLE**."

MY **LORD**, AND I **USE** THAT **TERM** OH SO **VERY** **LOOSELY**, I **WONDER--** WHY **WOULD** YOU **BE** **PUSHING** SO **HARD** FOR **THIS** IF YOU **DIDN'T** HAVE **DARKER**, **MORE** **ULTERIOR** **MOTIVES** THAN **MERE** **DEFENSE?**

DO YOU **TRULY** **WANT** TO **USE** THIS **POTENTIAL** **NEW** **POWER** TO **PROTECT** US FROM THE **OUTSIDE** **WORLD...** OR TO **ENSLAVE** IT?



YOU'VE
MADE QUITE
THE FIRST IMPRESSION,
HAVEN'T YOU? DO YOU
THINK YOUR FATHER
WOULD BE
PROUD?

NISABA...

...MY FATHER WASTED
HIS LIFE. STANDING STILL.
WAITING. NEVER GROWING,
LEARNING, CHANGING
OR ADAPTING.

HE WAS
COMPLACENT.

I AM NOT.



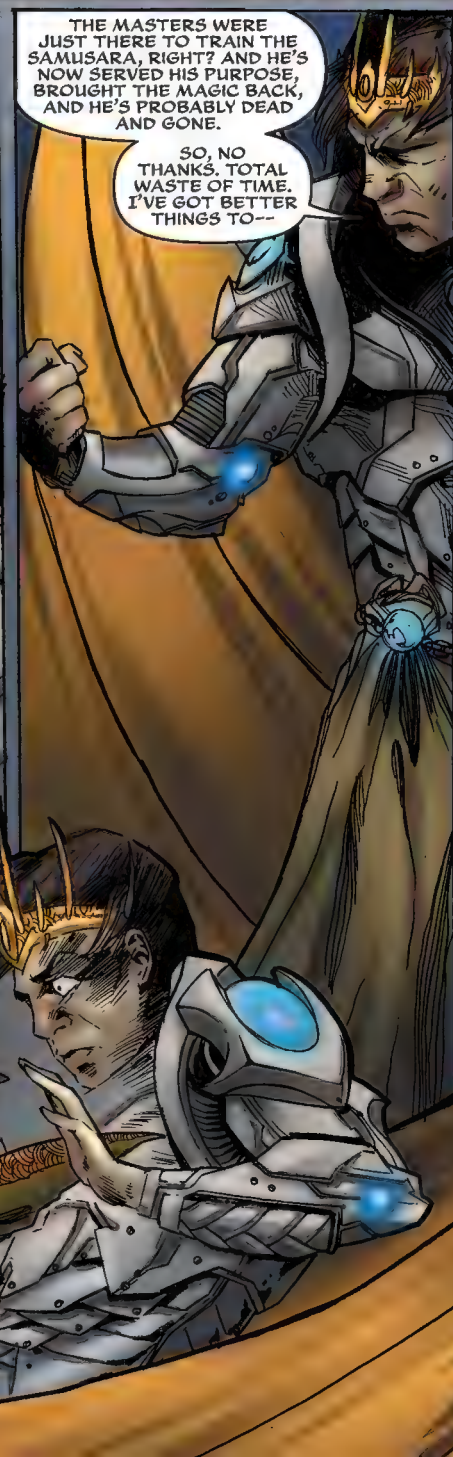
SARIN, I RAISED
YOUR FATHER. TAUGHT
HIM WHAT IT MEANS TO
BE A **MASTER**. YOU HAVE
THAT SAME POTENTIAL
IN YOUR BLOOD.



WHY?
THE MASTER
THING IS POINTLESS.
WHAT'D IT EVER DO
FOR MY DAD, EH? DIDN'T
SAVE HIM FROM BEING
SLICED IN HALF,
DID IT?

IF YOU'RE TO
ACHIEVE THAT POTENTIAL,
TO **MAXIMIZE** YOUR POWER,
AND, MORE IMPORTANTLY, TO
GAIN THE WISDOM AND TRUE
PERSPECTIVE THAT YOU CLEARLY
LACK, YOU MUST LEARN THE
WAYS OF A MASTER.

--DREAM,
MY IMPETUOUS
YOUNG KING...



THE MASTERS WERE
JUST THERE TO TRAIN THE
SAMUSARA, RIGHT? AND HE'S
NOW SERVED HIS PURPOSE,
BROUGHT THE MAGIC BACK,
AND HE'S PROBABLY DEAD
AND GONE.

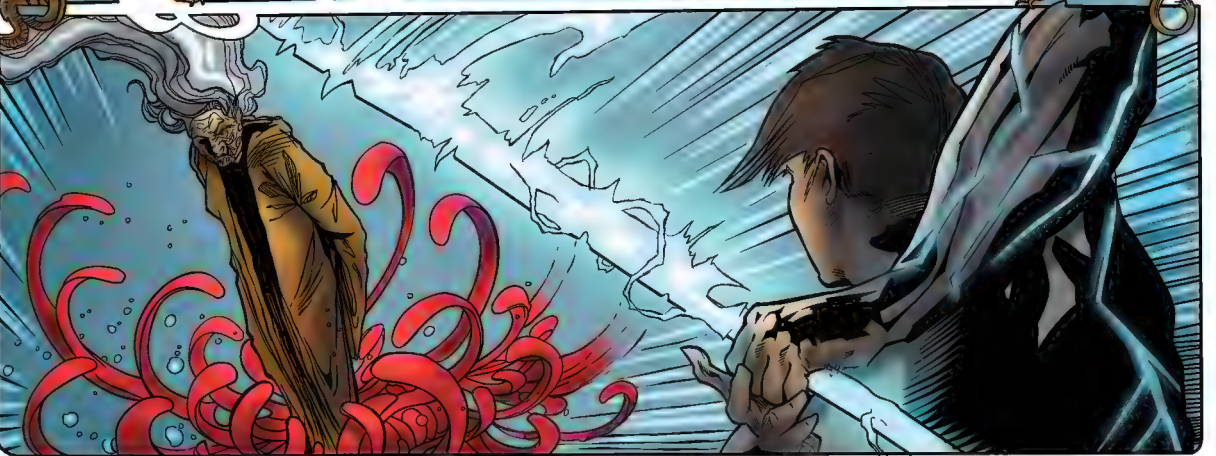
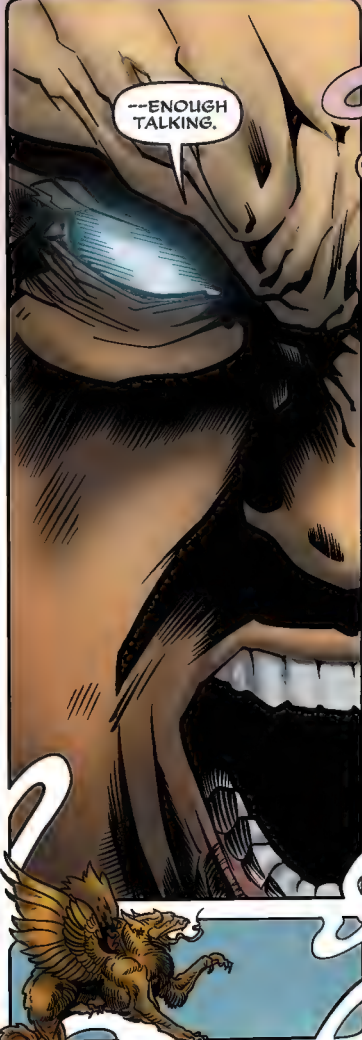
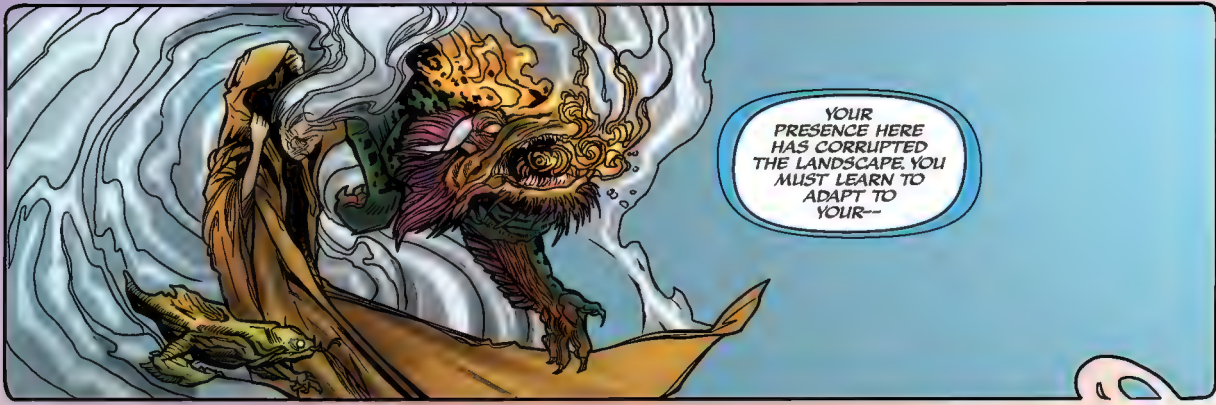
SO, NO
THANKS. TOTAL
WASTE OF TIME.
I'VE GOT BETTER
THINGS TO--



WHERE ARE WE?

A WORLD OUTSIDE THE WORLD AND, AT THE SAME TIME...

...A WORLD WITHIN US ALL.





IN THE REAL
WORLD YOU MAY BE
FORMIDABLE, NEPHEW,
BUT HERE? HERE YOU ARE
LESS THAN NOTHING.
A NOVICE.



REST ASSURED,
THIS IS JUST THE
BEGINNING.

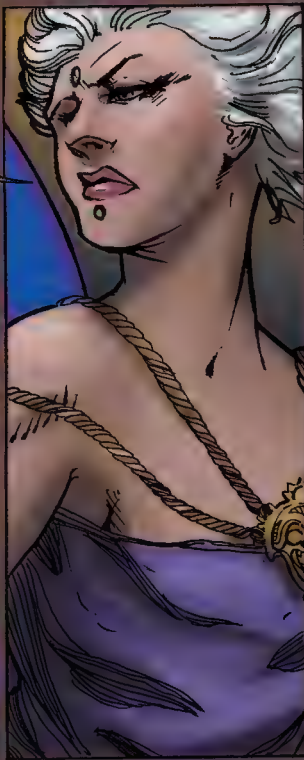


A NANTIA. SEVERAL
DAYS LATER.



WHAT'S THE
MATTER, MY DEAR
FIANCEE?

THIS IS
NOT AT ALL
WHAT I HAD
INTENDED.



OH,
COME NOW,
FAYE.



I THINK...

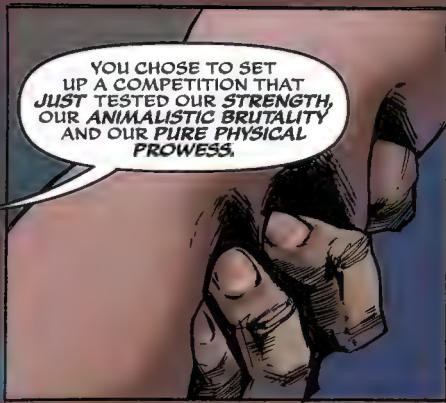


...THIS
IS **EXACTLY**
WHAT YOU HAD
WANTED.

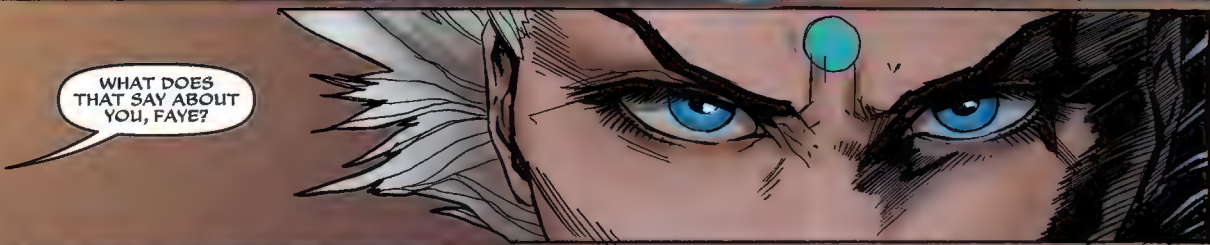


YOU COULD'VE CHOSEN YOUR NEW KING, YOUR NEW ROYAL CONSORT, IN ANY ONE OF A *MILLION* DIFFERENT WAYS.

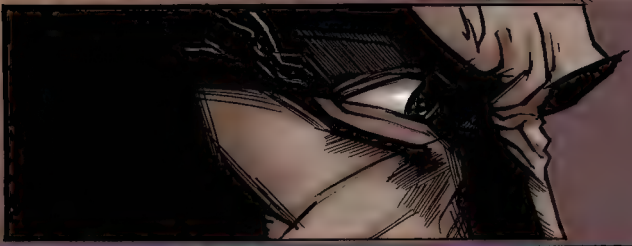
YOU COULD'VE TESTED OUR *INTELLECT*, OUR *KINDNESS*, OUR *EMPATHY*, OR ANY OTHER *SWEET, SUBTLE* QUALITY OF A POTENTIAL LEADER... BUT YOU *DIDN'T*.



YOU CHOSE TO SET UP A COMPETITION THAT *JUST TESTED* OUR *STRENGTH*, OUR *ANIMALISTIC BRUTALITY* AND OUR *PURE PHYSICAL PROWESS*.

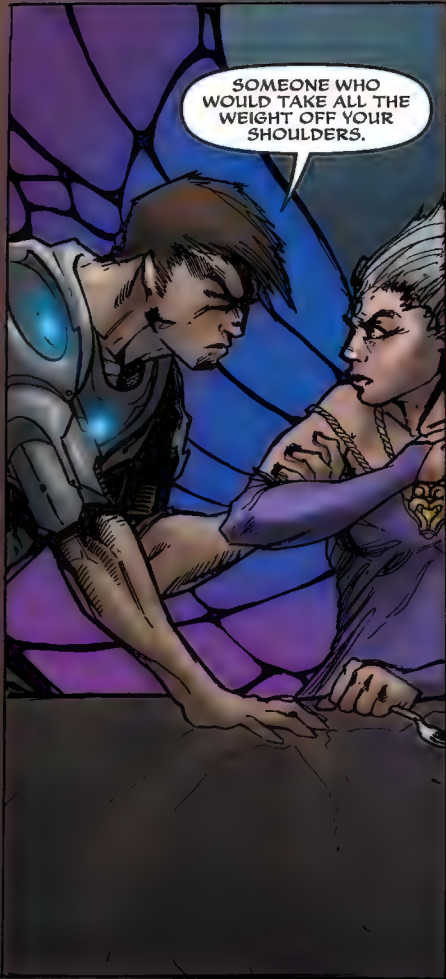


WHAT DOES THAT SAY ABOUT YOU, FAYE?



IT SAYS THAT YOU WANTED A REAL MAN, A *STRONG, COMMANDING, DOMINEERING* MAN TO COME IN AND TAKE OVER YOUR LIFE.

TO *SAVE* YOU FROM HAVING TO MAKE *DECISIONS*, TO MAKE *CHOICES*, TO BE A LEADER.



SOMEONE WHO WOULD TAKE ALL THE WEIGHT OFF YOUR SHOULDERS.

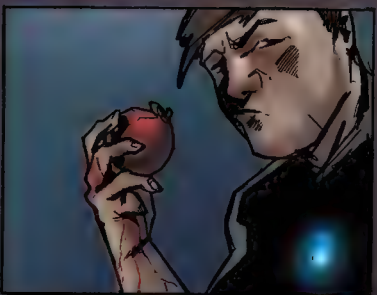


UNHAND ME!

THUNK



OH, FAYE, COME ON. LET'S BE *HONEST* WITH EACH OTHER. *DEEP INSIDE*, YOU SECRETLY WANT ALL THAT, DON'T YOU?





IN ORDER TO
BECOME WHAT YOU
WILL BE, YOU MUST
EMBRACE WHAT YOU
ARE, AND WHERE
YOU'VE BEEN.

FOR
ALL OF YOUR
BRAVADO, I SENSE
THAT YOU HAVE
DEEP TURMOIL
WITHIN.

YOU MUST
ACKNOWLEDGE,
ACCEPT AND BE
AT PEACE WITH
THE PATH YOU'VE
WALKED AND THE
CHOICES YOU'VE
MADE...

...IF YOU
ARE TO TRULY
UNLOCK THE
POWER WITHIN
YOURSELF.

AND SO, WE WILL WALK
THROUGH KEY MOMENTS IN
YOUR HISTORY, LEARN FROM
THEM, ASSIMILATE THEM, AND
THEN LET GO OF THEIR GRIP
ON YOU, SO THAT YOU MAY
BEGIN AGAIN, FRESH, WITH A
NEW PERSPECTIVE.

YOU MUST TRAIN
IN THE WAYS OF A
MASTER, IN ORDER
TO BE PREPARED
WHEN THE MAGIC
RETURNS.

THE MAGIC'S **NEVER**
RETURNING, FATHER!
IT'S BEEN CENTURIES, AND
THERE'S **NO MAGIC**. THERE'S
NO SAVIOR, NO **SAMUSARA**
THAT'S COMING BACK TO
REDEEM US. IT'S UP TO **US**
TO CHANGE THINGS, NOT
SOME IMAGINARY
MESSIAH!

YOU'RE JUST A
DELUSIONAL OLD
FOOL WHO CAN'T
GET OVER THE--

SLAP



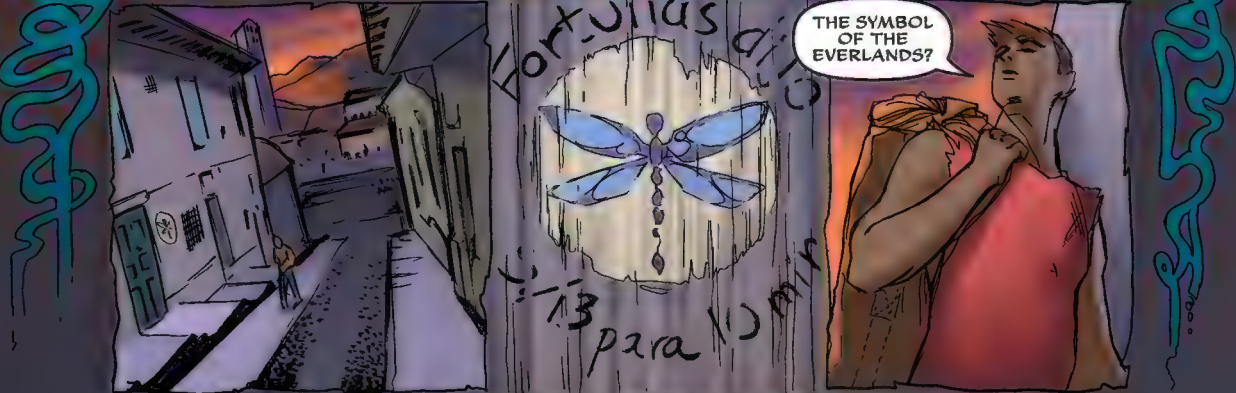
LEAVE MY
PRESENCE.

I'LL DO EVEN BETTER
THAN THAT! I'M LEAVING
THE EVERLANDS **ENTIRELY!**
I'LL FIND SOME PEOPLE WHO
LIVE IN **REALITY**, NOT YOUR
RIDICULOUS, MISGUIDED
FANTASY WORLD!

IT'S NOT JUST
ABOUT LEARNING
COMBAT SKILLS, IT'S
ABOUT EMBRACING THE
THINGS THAT MAKE
YOU **WHO YOU ARE**,
THE **UNIQUE** POWER
WITHIN YOU.

I REFER
NOT ONLY TO
THE **MAGICAL POWERS**
THAT COURSE THROUGH
YOUR ROYAL BLOOD, BUT
ALSO TO YOUR OWN
UNIQUE SOUL, YOUR
OWN NATURE.







THE SAMUSARA'S
LIGHT HAS RETURNED
TO THE WORLD, AND,
WITH IT, MY FORESIGHT
HAS RETURNED
TO ME.



NOW, I
CAN SEE THE
FUTURE AGAIN,
SEE PEOPLE'S
TRUE FATES.

YOU, MY
YOUNG ONE, ARE
DESTINED FOR
GREATNESS.

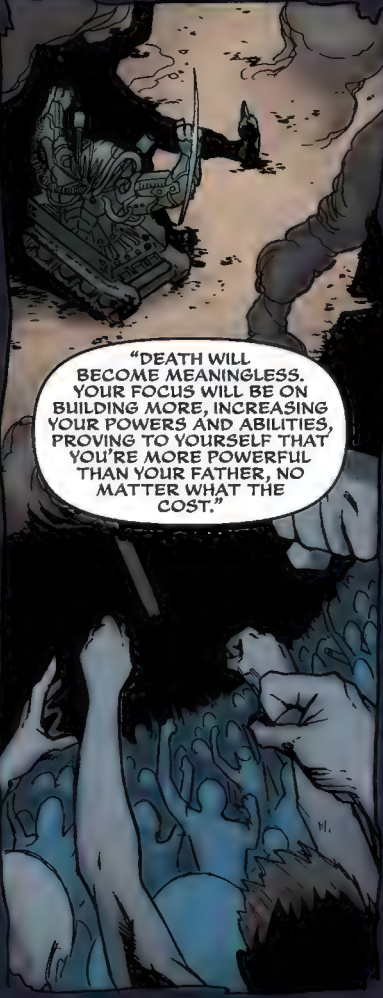


"YOU WILL
SPEND ANOTHER
SEVERAL MONTHS
HERE,
IN LIMA, PERFECTING YOUR
USE AND KNOWLEDGE OF
THE TECHNOLOGIES THAT
PERMEATE THE HUMAN
WORLD.

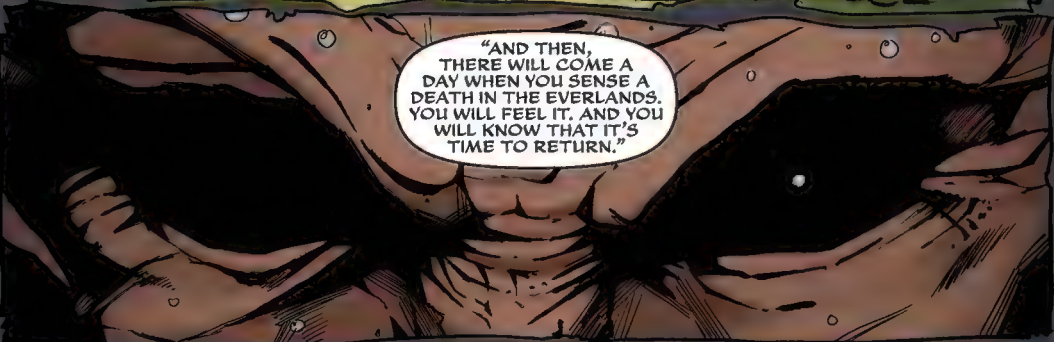


"YOU AND YOUR
COLLEAGUES WILL
ENGAGE IN BRUTAL
BATTLES TO THE
DEATH.

"THEY WILL TEST
YOUR METTLE AND
TEACH YOU TO OVERCOME
FEAR, BUT THEY WILL ALSO
HARDEN YOUR SOUL AND
FORCE YOU TO FOREGO
ALL MORALITY.



"DEATH WILL
BECOME MEANINGLESS.
YOUR FOCUS WILL BE ON
BUILDING MORE, INCREASING
YOUR POWERS AND ABILITIES,
PROVING TO YOURSELF THAT
YOU'RE MORE POWERFUL
THAN YOUR FATHER, NO
MATTER WHAT THE
COST."





YOU WILL
FACE TREMENDOUS
CHALLENGES AND BATTLES
ALONG THE WAY. EVEN I
CANNOT SEE HOW THEY
WILL ALL PLAY OUT.



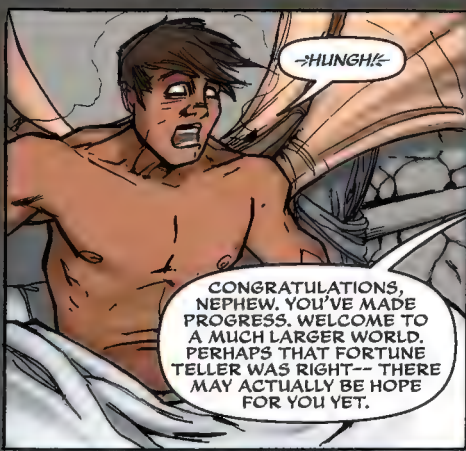
BUT I CAN TELL
YOU THAT YOU NEED
TO BELIEVE, AND TO
NEVER GIVE UP, NEVER
GIVE IN, NEVER
COMPROMISE.

TRUST IN YOUR
FATE, YOUNG SARIN.
YOU CAN CHANGE
THE WORLD.



"NEVER GIVE UP,
NEVER GIVE IN, NEVER
COMPROMISE."



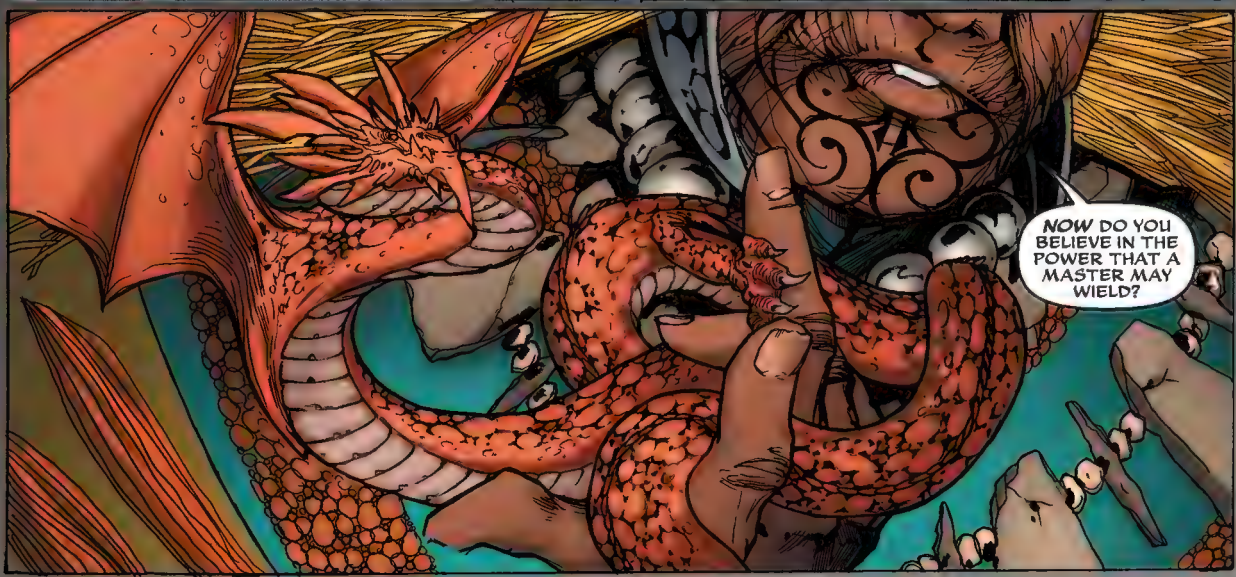


-HUNGHI-

CONGRATULATIONS, NEPHEW. YOU'VE MADE PROGRESS. WELCOME TO A MUCH LARGER WORLD. PERHAPS THAT FORTUNE TELLER WAS RIGHT-- THERE MAY ACTUALLY BE HOPE FOR YOU YET.



YOU SEE, MAGIC IS NOT JUST A BATTERY MEANT TO POWER YOUR TECHNOLOGY. IT IS THE **TRUE POWER** IN AND OF ITSELF.



NOW DO YOU BELIEVE IN THE POWER THAT A MASTER MAY WIELD?



I SAW HIM. A VISION OF THE SAMUSARA. MALIKAI.

HE'S ALIVE...

SEARCH FOR THE LIGHT

MICHAEL TURNER'S
SOULFIRE

FAITH

Faith

AMANDA MCMURRAY

SIYA OUMI

JOSH REED



#1

COVER A



SEARCH FOR THE LIGHT™

MICHAEL TURNER'S
SOULFIRE

HOPE • DESPAIR • FAITH • POWER • GRACE

Faith

OMANDA MCMURRAY
TIVA OUM
JOSH REED



PART THREE

#1

COVER B



SEARCH FOR THE LIGHT

HOPE·DESPAIR·FAITH·POWER·GRACE

MICHAEL TURNER'S SOULFIRE™ Faith

Story—

AMANDA McMURRAY

Artwork—

SIYA OUM

Letters—

JOSH REED

Editors: VINCE HERNANDEZ, FRANK MASTROMAURO | Design and Production: MARK ROSLAN, PETER STEIGERWALD
Soulfire Created by: MICHAEL TURNER | Lettering font designed by: DREAMER DESIGN

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MICHAEL TURNER'S SOULFIRE™ FAITH

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THE WORLD
WAS ONCE
DEVOID OF
MAGIC.

TECHNOLOGY HAD
DEVoured THE LIGHT
OF ITS GLOW.

THEN MALAKAI, THE
SAMUSARA-- THE BRINGER
OF LIGHT, BROUGHT MAGIC
BACK TO THE WORLD.

BUT,
SOMETHING
WENT
WRONG--

--AND NOW
MALAKAI IS
IN GRAVE
DANGER.

LIKE MY FATHER
BEFORE ME, I SAW
THINGS CLEARLY, THE
PAST FLOWING INTO
THE FUTURE IN ONE
CONTINUOUS SEAM
OF TIMELESSNESS.

HOWEVER,
NOW...

...NOW, I
SEE ONLY
CHAOS.





AAAAHHHHH!



MY EYES!



WHAT IS...
HAPPENING???



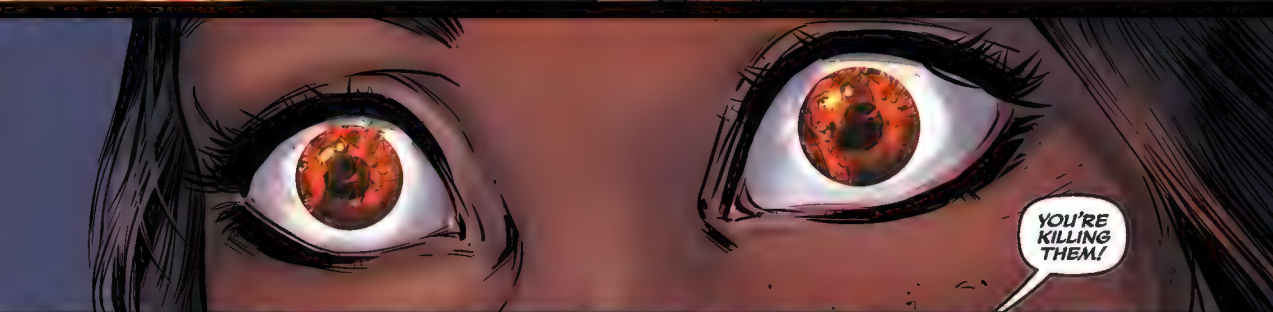
I CAN SEE
NOTHING... YET
EVERYTHING.



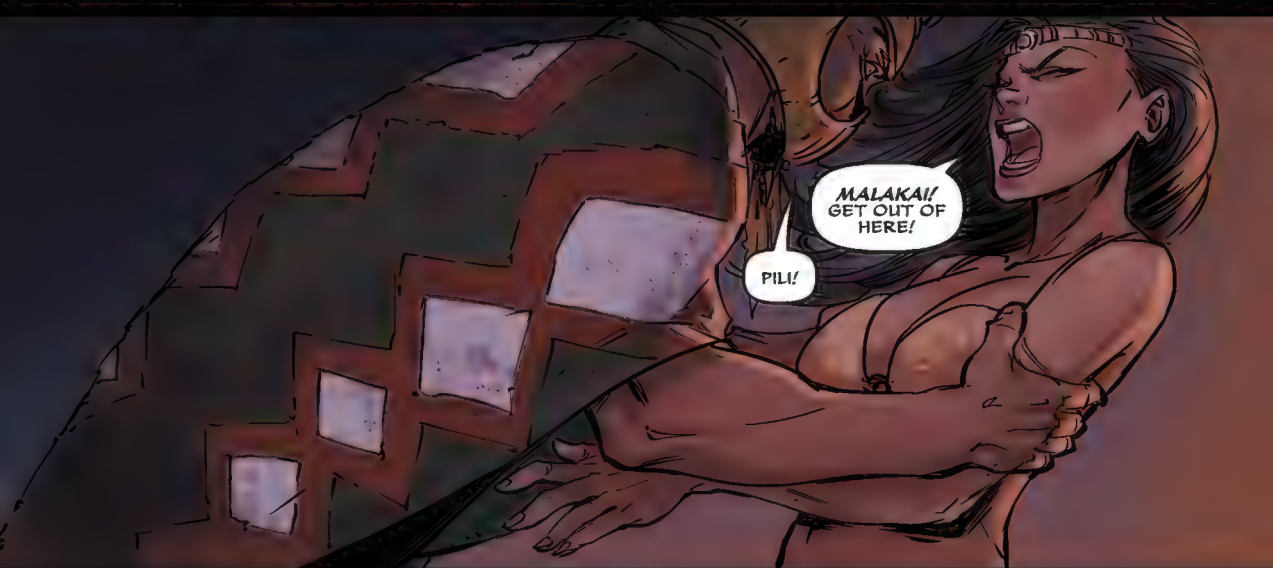
SAVE
YOURSELVES!

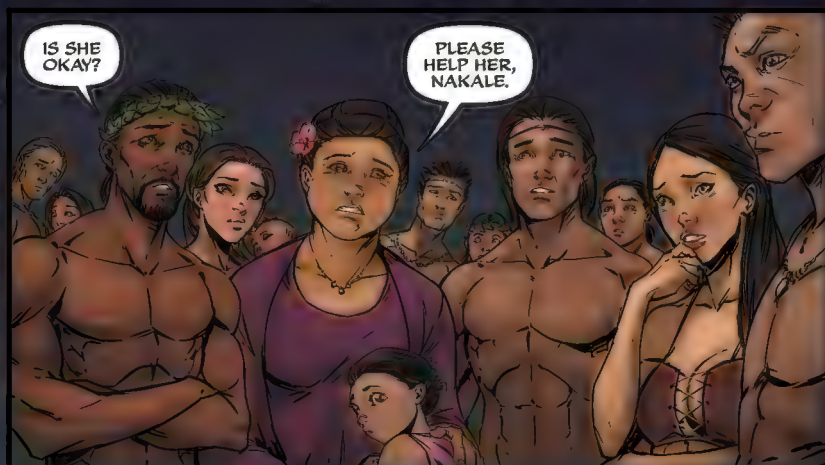
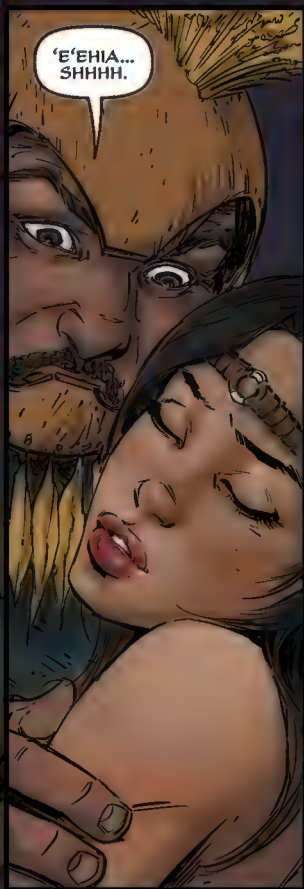


RUN!



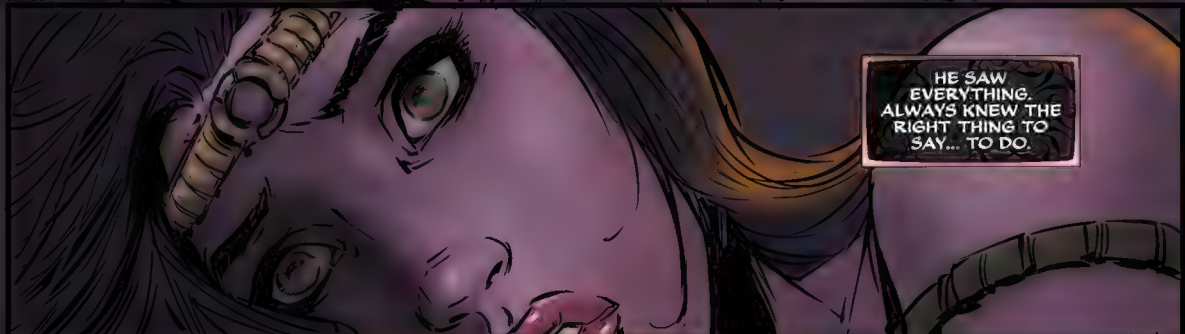








MY FATHER
WAS TO BE THE
SAMUSARA'S
GUIDE.



HE SAW
EVERYTHING.
ALWAYS KNEW THE
RIGHT THING TO
SAY... TO DO.



I AM
NOT MY
FATHER.



WHEN I ATTEMPT TO USE
MY VISIONS, I SEE NOTHING
BUT CONFUSION AND
DISMAY.



FATHER,
WHAT DO I
DO?

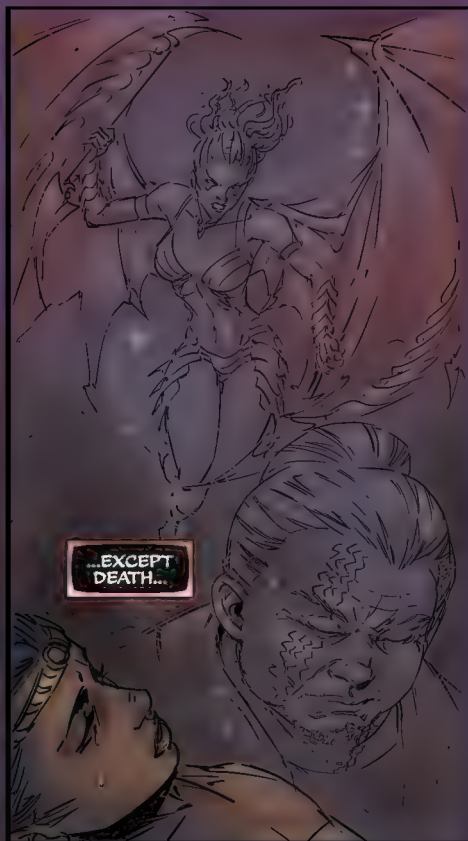
HOW WILL
I KNOW?



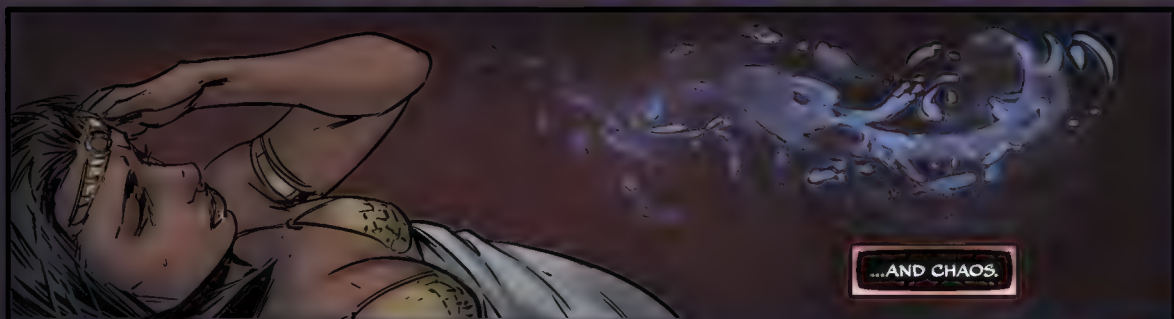
YOU MUST FIRST
LISTEN WITH YOUR
HEART; THEN YOU
WILL SEE WITH
YOUR EYES.

I SEE ONLY
TURMOIL.

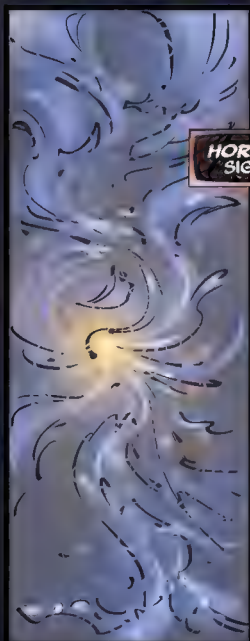
NOTHING
IS CLEAR
TO ME...



...EXCEPT
DEATH...



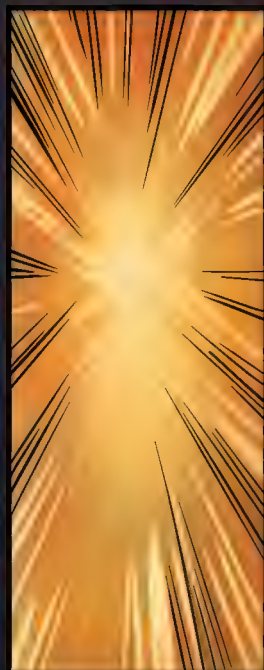
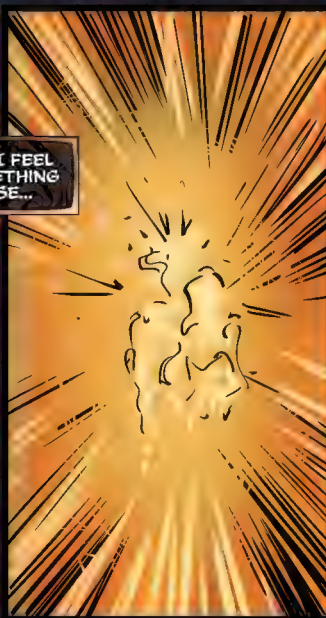
...AND CHAOS.



HORRIBLE
SIGHTS.



YET, I FEEL
SOMETHING
ELSE...





...POWER...

...DESPAIR...

...AND DARKNESS.

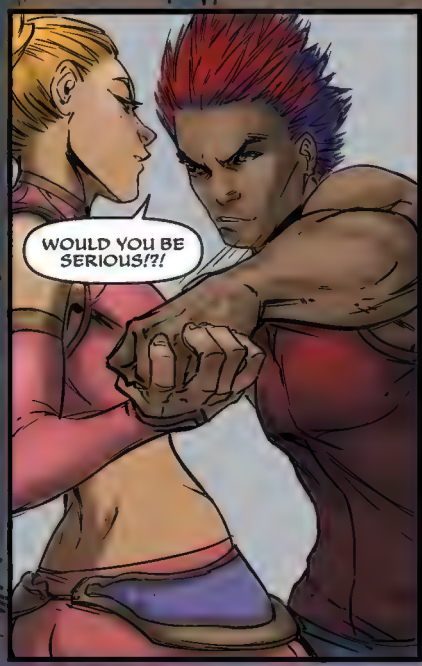
I MUST TRY TO
MAKE SOME SENSE
FROM THIS!

WAIT,
I SEE...





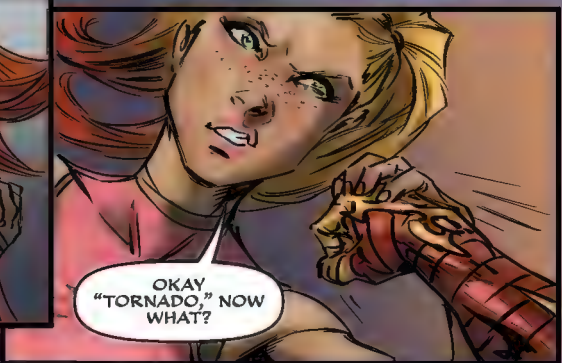
FEAR
MY NINJA
SKILLS!



WOULD YOU BE
SERIOUS?!!



I AM! I'M
LIKE A TORNADO
UNLEASHED ON
THE WORLD!



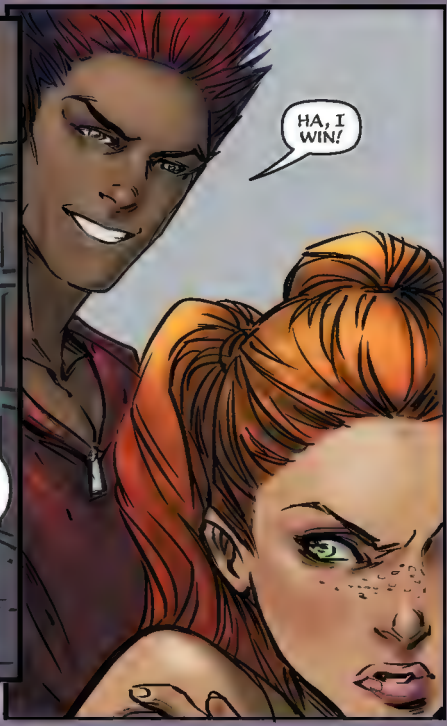
OKAY
"TORNADO," NOW
WHAT?



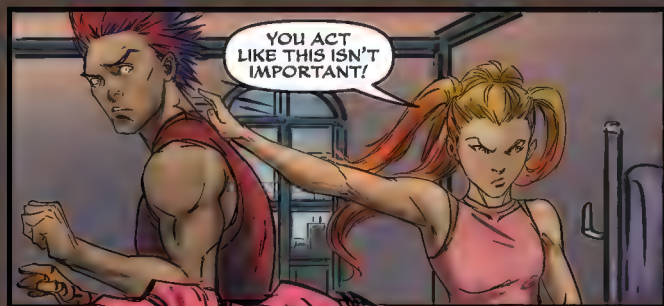
I NEVER
NOTICED HOW
BEAUTIFUL YOUR
EYES ARE
BEFORE.



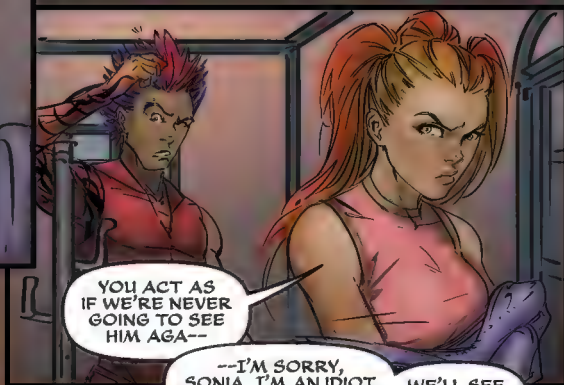
FORGET
IT, YOU DON'T
TAKE ANYTHING
SERIOUS.



HA, I
WIN!



YOU ACT
LIKE THIS ISN'T
IMPORTANT!



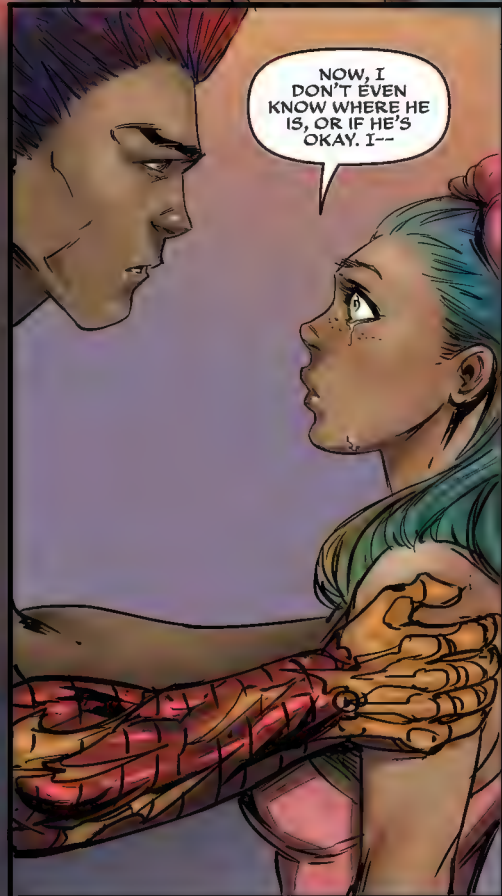
YOU ACT AS
IF WE'RE NEVER
GOING TO SEE
HIM AGA--

--I'M SORRY,
SONIA. I'M AN IDIOT
SOMETIMES.

WE'LL SEE
MAL AGAIN.
I KNOW WE
WILL.



I SHOULD
NEVER HAVE
LEFT HIM.



NOW, I
DON'T EVEN
KNOW WHERE HE
IS, OR IF HE'S
OKAY. I--

HE'S
OKAY. I
KNOW
IT.

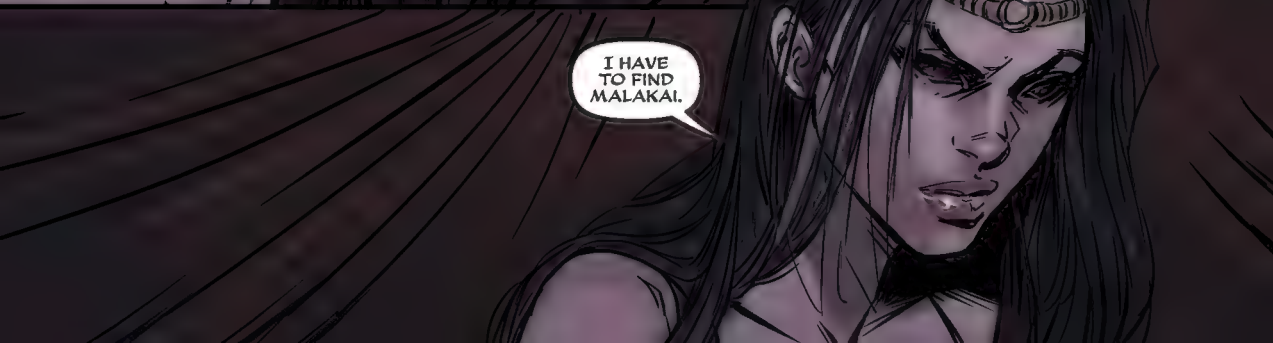




I LOST THEM!
DAMMIT!



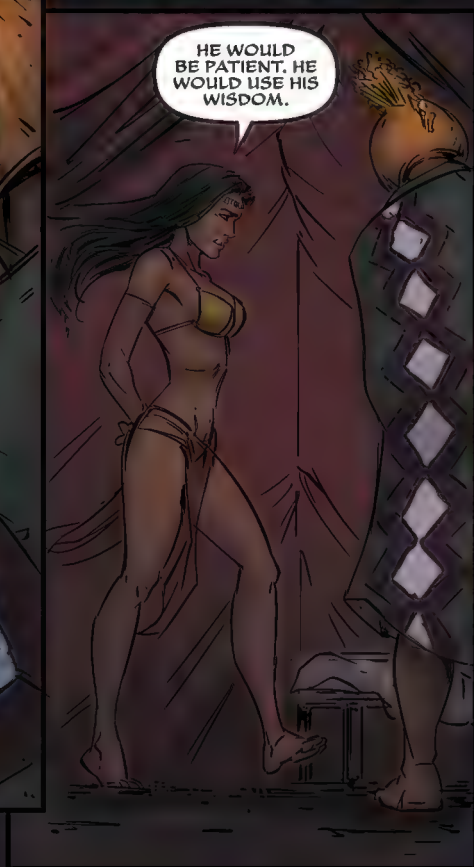
I AM
DRIVING MYSELF
CRAZY!



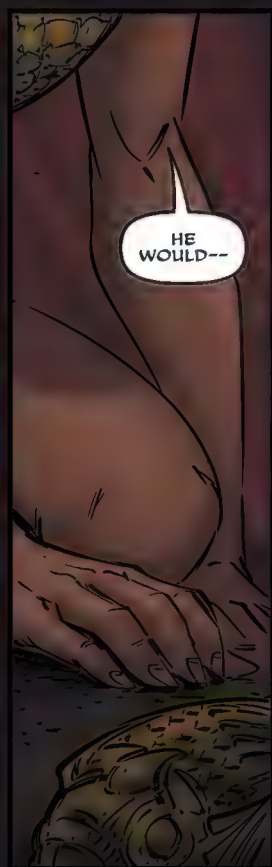
I HAVE
TO FIND
MALAKAI.



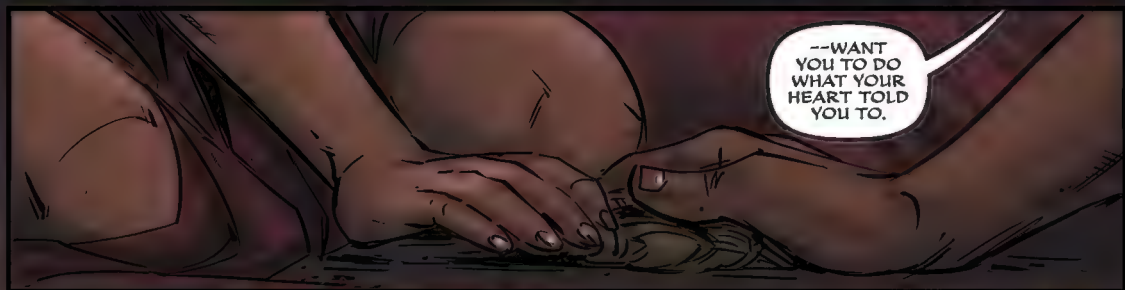
NAKALE,
WHAT WOULD
MY FATHER
DO?



HE WOULD
BE PATIENT. HE
WOULD USE HIS
WISDOM.



HE
WOULD--



--WANT
YOU TO DO
WHAT YOUR
HEART TOLD
YOU TO.



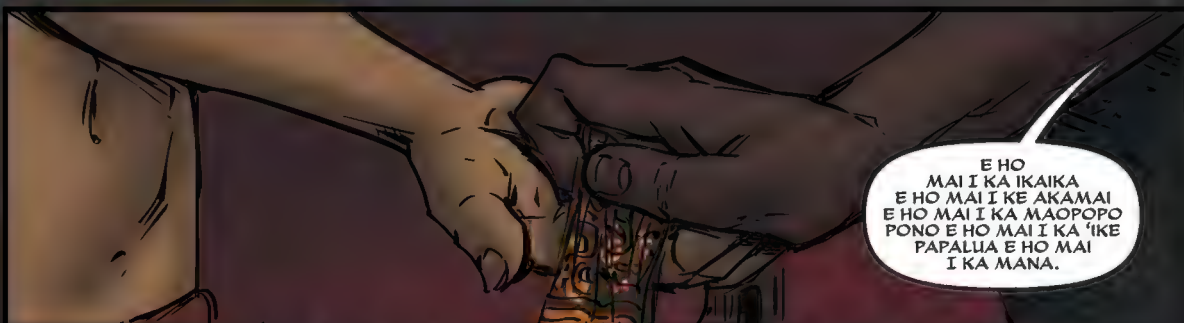
I HAVE
TO FIND HIM,
NAKALE.

THEN
DO AS YOU
MUST.

KAMEA WOULD
TELL YOU AS
SUCH.



E HO
MAI I KA
'IKE.



E HO
MAI I KA IKA IKA
E HO MAI I KE AKAMAI
E HO MAI I KA MAOPOPO
PONO E HO MAI I KA 'IKE
PAPALUA E HO MAI
I KA MANA.



THE PRAYER
IS LIFTED. IT
IS FREE.

GO.

"USE THE
VISIONS."

"YOU DON'T
NEED TO SEE
WHAT MUST
BE DONE."

"YOU
ALREADY
KNOW."

"YOU MUST
FIND MALIKAI,
AND RESCUE THE
BRINGER OF
LIGHT."

To Be Continued In...

SOULFIRE

Power #1

ON SALE NOW!

SEARCH FOR THE LIGHT™

MICHAEL TURNER'S
SOULFIRE

POWER
Power
DAVID WOHL
KHARY RANDOLPH • NACHO ARRANZ
DANIEL LOPEZ • JOHN STARR • JOE FREED



#**1**
COVER A



SEARCH FOR THE LIGHT

MICHAEL TURNER'S
SOULFIRE

POWER
Power

BY WSHI
WITH RANDOLPH AND JEFF LARRANY
AND LOPEZ AND KEARNEY AND REED



#1

COVER B



SEARCH FOR THE LIGHT

HOPE • DESPAIR • FAITH • POWER • GRACE

M I C H A E L T U R N E R ' S
SOULFIRE™
Power

Story—

DAVID WOHL

Pencils—

NACHO ARRANZ, KHARY RANDOLPH

Colors—

JOHN STARR, EMILIO LOPEZ, ÉTIENNE ST. LAURENT

Letters—

JOSH REED

Editors: VINCE HERNANDEZ, FRANK MASTROMAURO Design and Production: MARK ROSLAN, PETER STEIGERWALD
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MICHAEL TURNER'S SOULFIRE™ POWER

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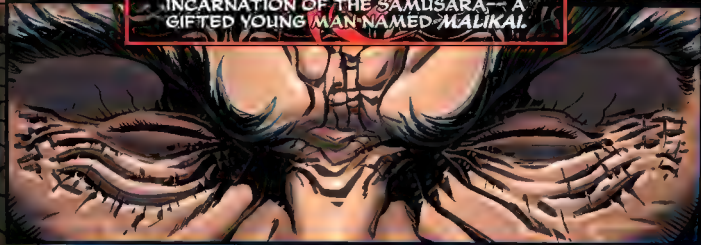
HE IS CALLED
REN WATASTU.

AS ONE OF THE FIVE
MASTERS CHARGED
WITH TRAINING THE
SAMUSARA, OR
CHOSEN ONE...

...HE HAS AN
UNSURPASSED
UNDERSTANDING
OF MAGIC, AND
ITS PLACE WITHIN
THIS WORLD.

SOME TIME AGO, IN THIS VERY SPOT, HE
IMPARTED KNOWLEDGE UPON THE LATEST
INCARNATION OF THE SAMUSARA-- A
GIFTED YOUNG MAN NAMED MALIKAL.

ALTHOUGH
HE WAS YOUNG AND
SOMEWHAT IMPETUOUS,
MALIKAL'S POWER WAS
UNDENIABLE.



...AND AS IT
INCREASED, ALL OF
THE MAGIC OF THIS
WORLD INTENSIFIED
WITH IT.

FOR A
TIME, THIS INFLUX
OF NEW POWER HAD
REMAINED UNDER
CONTROL...

BUT RECENTLY
SOMETHING HAS GONE
AMISS-- CONTROL HAS
BECOME HARDER TO
MAINTAIN.



AND REN CAN'T HELP BUT CONSIDER THAT SOMEHOW MALIKAI IS INVOLVED.

HE REMEMBERS THEIR EARLIER ENCOUNTER...

THAT IS OUR WORLD. THAT IS OUR CHAOS.



I'VE TRIED BEFORE... TO TEACH OTHERS THE WAY TO GRAPPLE WITH THEIR INNER CHAOS-- TO CONTROL IT. BUT, CHAOS IS A POWERFUL FORCE AND TO MASTER IT REQUIRES NOT JUST STRENGTH, BUT ALSO UNDERSTANDING.

AND THAT HAS BEEN THE DOWNFALL OF SO MANY THAT HAVE COME BEFORE. DID THEY FAIL, OR WAS THE FAILURE MINE? AFTER ALL, I WAS THE TEACHER.



I'M SURE YOU TRIED YOUR BEST.

MY BEST? TRIED MY BEST?

TRYING YOUR BEST IS NOTHING BUT FAILURE IN WAITING.

YOU KNOW, BUDDY, SOMETIMES I THINK YOU TAKE THIS ALL A LITTLE TOO SERIOUSLY.



DON'T YOU EVER LIGHTEN UP?



YOU LOOK AT THIS BEAUTIFUL, MAGICAL WORLD, AND SEE CHAOS.



YOU SEE POWER AND THINK YOU NEED TO CONTAIN IT-- CONTROL IT.



WHAT A WASTE!



MAGIC ISN'T MEANT TO BE LOCKED AWAY LIKE SOME PIECE OF EXPENSIVE JEWELRY OR WHATEVER.



IT SHOULD BE ENJOYED



IT SHOULD BE USED



UNABLE TO DETERMINE THE SOURCE OF THE DISTURBANCE, AND PUZZLED BY THESE DREAMLIKE, ALTERED MEMORIES...

REN CONTINUES TO FOCUS INWARD...



UNABLE TO DETERMINE THE SOURCE OF THE DISTURBANCE, AND PUZZLED BY THESE DREAMLIKE, ALTERED MEMORIES...

REN CONTINUES TO FOCUS INWARD...

...COMPLETELY
UNWARE OF THE
MANIFESTATION
GROWING FROM
WITHIN HIMSELF.



**HIS GEISHA
GUARDS
HOWEVER...**

**...HAVING
SERVED THEIR
MASTER FOR
YEARS WITHOUT
INCIDENT...**



**HIS GEISHA
GUARDS
HOWEVER...**

**...HAVING
SERVED THEIR
MASTER FOR
YEARS WITHOUT
INCIDENT...**

...REALIZE THAT THIS OCCURRENCE IS HIGHLY UNUSUAL

IN FACT, IT'S NEVER HAPPENED BEFORE.

EXCUSE ME, MASTER...

...REALIZE THAT THIS OCCURRENCE IS HIGHLY UNUSUAL

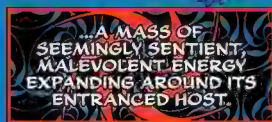
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...REALIZE THAT THIS OCCURRENCE IS HIGHLY UNUSUAL

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EXCUSE ME, MASTER...



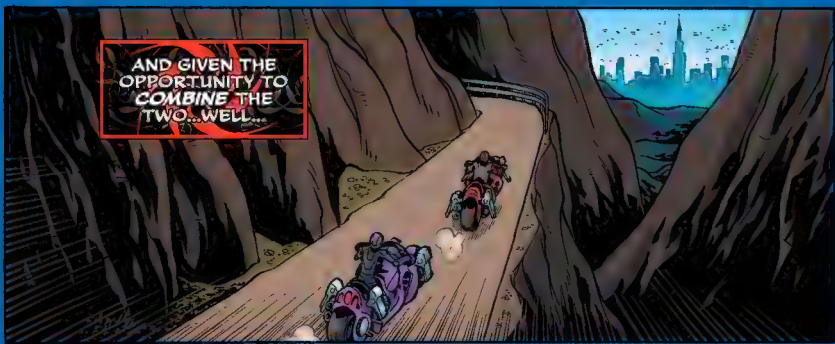
NEARBY...

ALTHOUGH HE WAS BORN IN AMERICA, BENOIST HAS ALWAYS CONSIDERED TOKYO HIS REAL HOME.

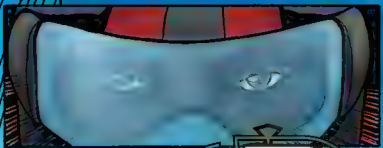
LIVING AMIDST A CULTURE THAT SHARES HIS TWO FAVORITE LOVES—TECHNOLOGY AND RACING—THERE'S NO PLACE HE'D RATHER BE.



AND GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO COMBINE THE TWO... WELL...



...THAT'S HEAVEN.



ALL RIGHT, MIKA, YOU READY TO SEE WHAT THESE CAN DO?

LEAD THE WAY, BOSS.



A FORMER UNDEFEATED
"BATTLE PIT" CHAMPION, TO
CALL BENOIST A MERE **THRILL
SEEKER** WOULD BE A SERIOUS
UNDERSTATEMENT.

HE LIKES TO
GO WHERE THE
ACTION IS.

AND WHEN IT'S
LACKING, HE CREATES
HIS OWN.

IN THIS CASE, A
LITTLE TWIST ON
THE OFFROADING
EXPERIENCE...

...AT 10,000 FEET.

VRRRRROOOOOOM

WHAT A DAY!!!
IT'S BEAUTIFUL
UP HERE!

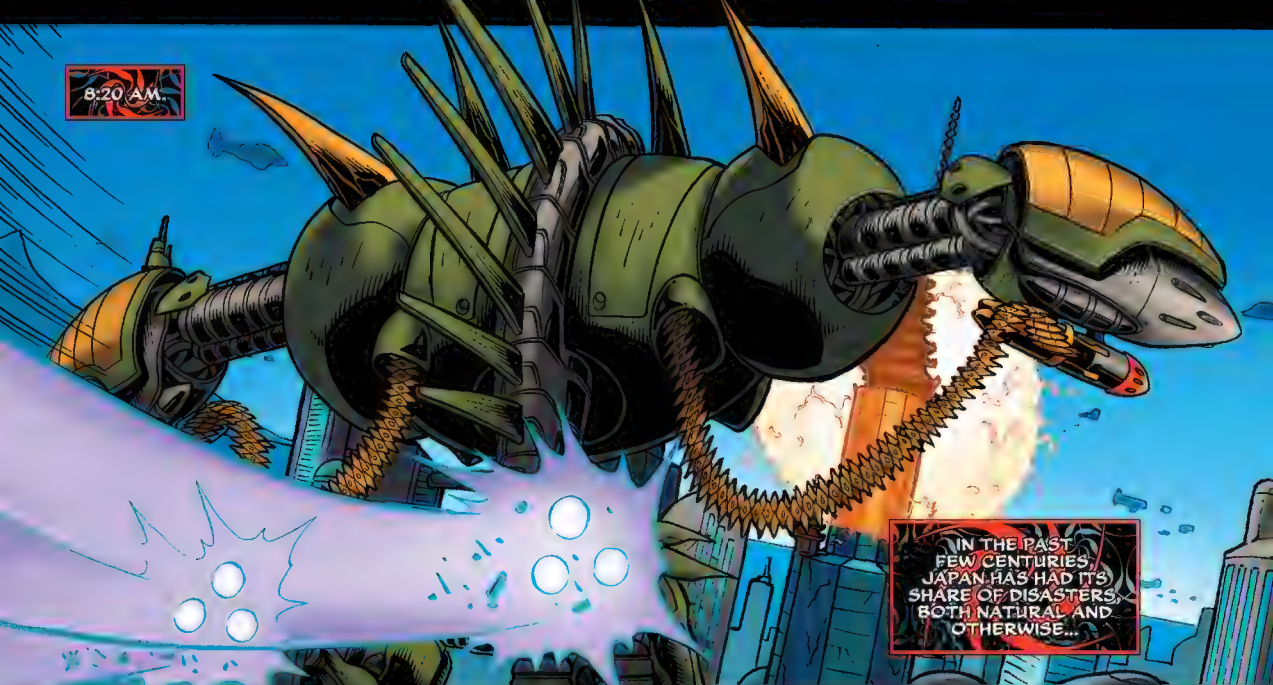
YEAH
IT IS.

BUT FROM
THE LOOKS OF IT,
SOMETHING BIG MUST
BE GOING ON IN
THE CITY...

...IF THOSE
MILITARY-GRADE
MECHS ARE ANY
INDICATION.

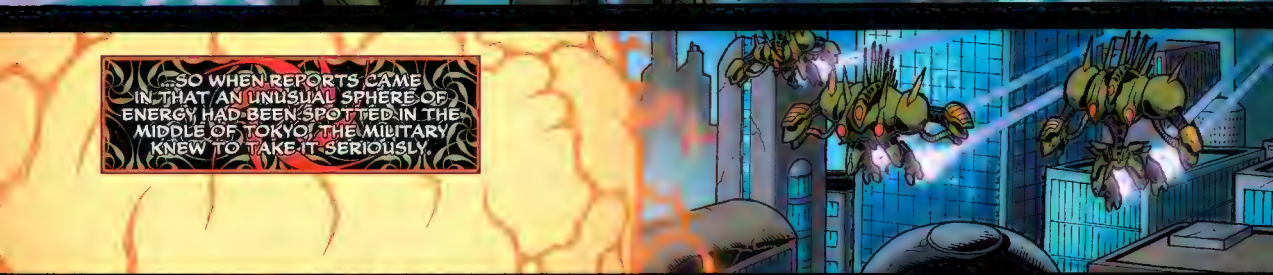
LET'S
CHECK IT
OUT.

8:20 AM



IN THE PAST FEW CENTURIES, JAPAN HAS HAD ITS SHARE OF DISASTERS, BOTH NATURAL AND OTHERWISE...

SO WHEN REPORTS CAME IN THAT AN UNUSUAL SPHERE OF ENERGY HAD BEEN SPOTTED IN THE MIDDLE OF TOKYO, THE MILITARY KNEW TO TAKE IT SERIOUSLY.



BASE, THIS IS SPARROW-1. WE HAVE VISUAL CONTACT. IT'S SOME KIND OF FIELD OF UNKNOWN MATTER.

SPARROW-1. ENGAGE THE TARGET-- WITH CAUTION.



ACKNOWLEDGED

APPROACHING THE FIELD-- HEY-- I THINK I SEE SOMEONE IN THERE...



YEAH HE'S JUST SIT-- KKZZZP



BASE, THIS IS SPARROW-3. WE'VE LOST CONTACT WITH SPARROW-1 AS IT ENTERED THE SPHERE-- BUT HE'S STILL IN VISUAL RANGE AND APPEARS TO BE FUNCTIONAL.

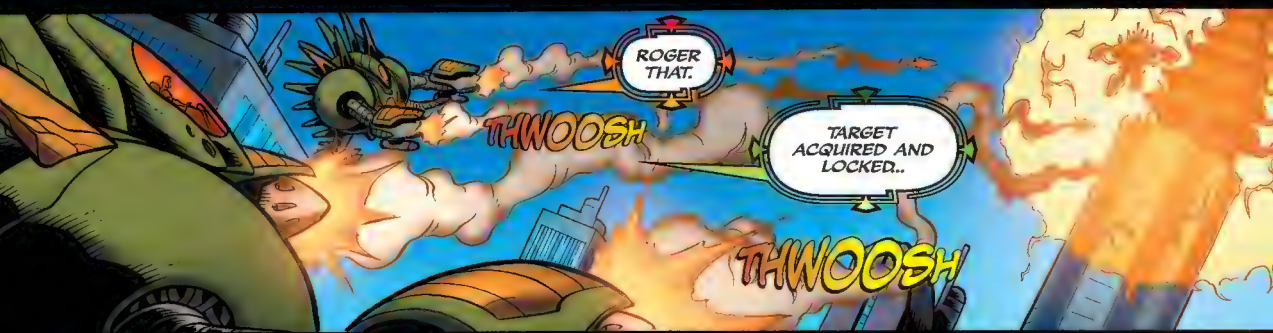
SPARROW-1-- YUKIO! YOU HEAR ME? EVERYTHING OKAY IN THERE?



WAIT-- NO--
SOMETHING'S
HAPPENING.

THE SPHERE--
IT'S ATTACKING
HIM!

SPARROW-2
AND SPARROW-3,
PREPARE TO FIRE
UPON THE
FIELD.



ROGER
THAT.

TARGET
ACQUIRED AND
LOCKED...



IMPACT!



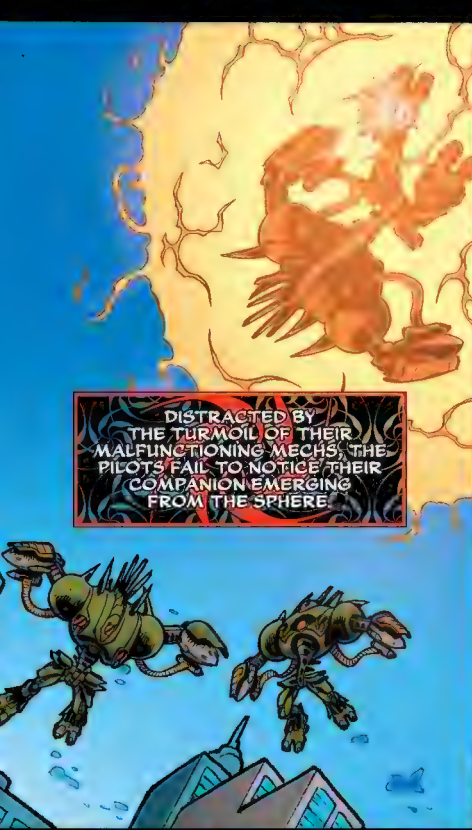
BASE, THERE
APPEAR TO BE SOME
KIND OF ENERGY TENDRILS
EMANATING FROM THE
SPHERE. THEY
AZZZKKLLLLSSHHHH



SPARROW-2--
SPARROW-3/
REPORT!!!

ALL THE
CONTROLS ARE
GOING CRAZY!
THERE'S NO
RESPONSE!

ATTEMPTING
MANUAL
OVERRIDE!



DISTRACTED BY THE TURMOIL OF THEIR MALFUNCTIONING MECHS, THE PILOTS FAIL TO NOTICE THEIR COMPANION EMERGING FROM THE SPHERE



THWAAKKOOOM

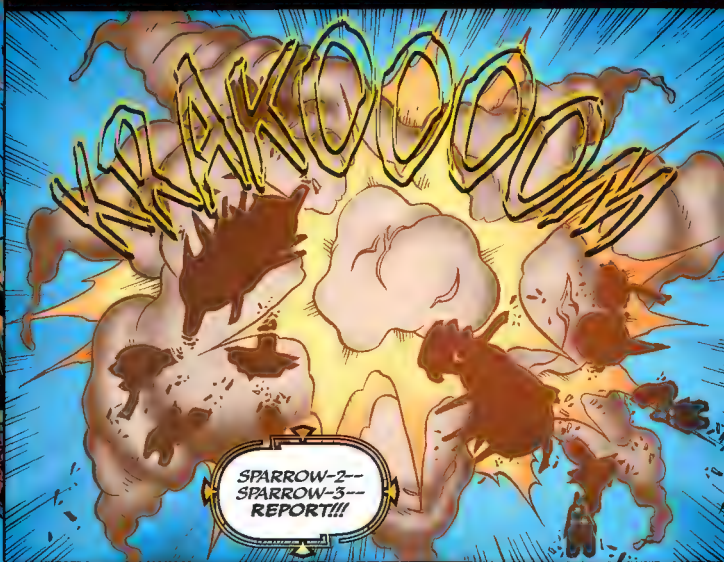


SHUJI!!!



BASE, THIS IS SPARROW-3--- I-- DON'T KNOW IF YOU'RE RECEIVING THIS, BUT THE ENERGY-- IT'S DONE SOMETHING TO YUKIO-- I MEAN-- SPARROW-1.

HE DESTROYED SPARROW-2 AND NOW IS HEADED TOWARD ME-- SHIELDS ARE DOWN-- WEAPONS NOT FUNCTIONAL-- YUKIO-- PLEASE DON'T--



SPARROW-2-- SPARROW-3-- REPORT!!!



ANYONE???



UNAWARE OF THE MAYHEM SURROUNDING HIM IN THE ACTUAL WORLD, REN REMAINS TRAPPED IN HIS REMINISCENCE.

HE REMEMBERS HOW IMPRESSED HE WAS WITH MALIKAI'S REMARKABLY RAPID PROGRESS.



EVEN THEN, HIS POWER WAS GROWING EXPONENTIALLY AS WELL.

IT WAS ALMOST FRIGHTENING.



I'M BORED.

WAIT-- WE'RE NOT FINISHED WITH THE EXERCISES YET.

I AM.



YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND.

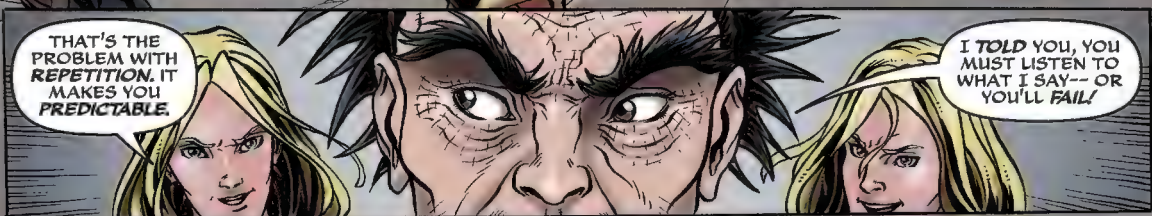
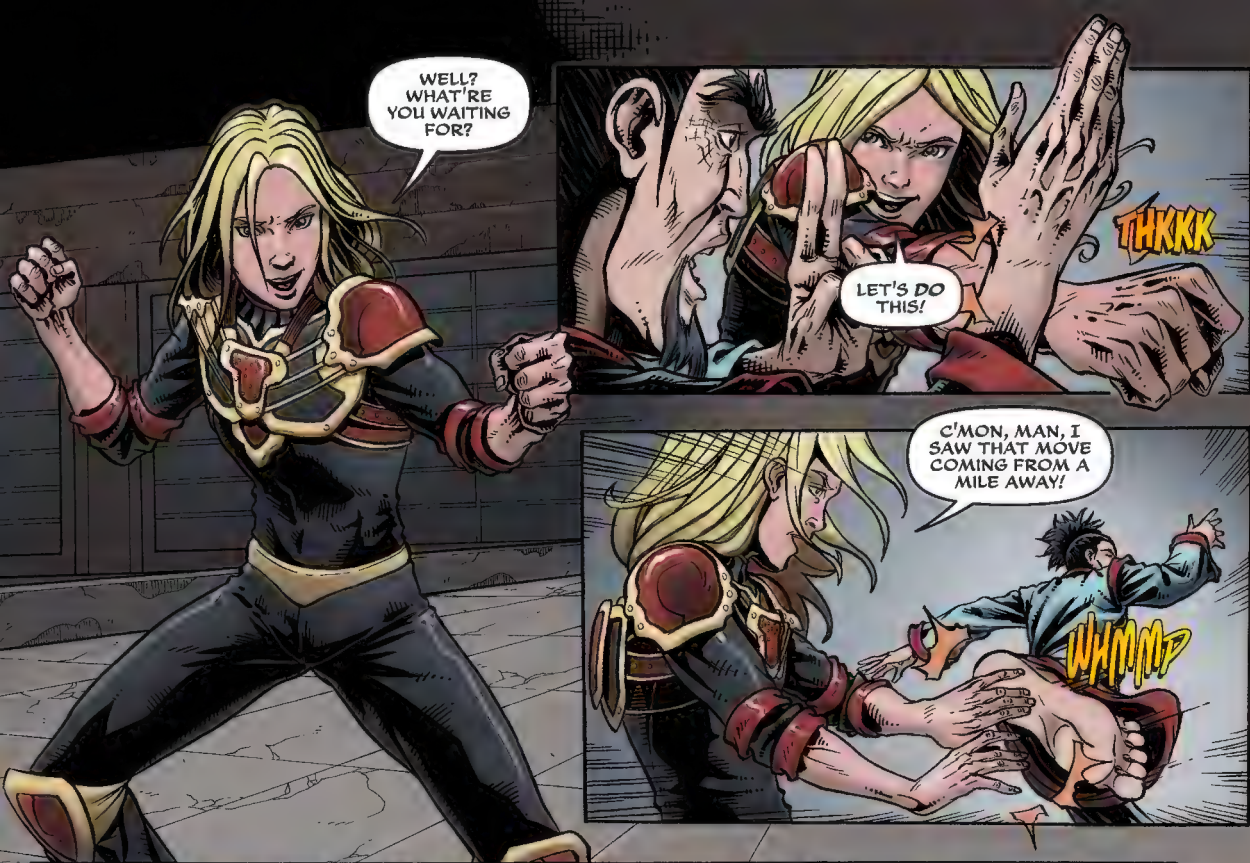
CONTROL OVER YOUR VAST GIFTS CAN ONLY BE ACHIEVED THROUGH REPETITION--

I THINK IT'S YOU WHO DOESN'T UNDERSTAND.



I GOT THIS. LET'S SPAR.







AS BENOIST NEARS HIS DESTINATION, HE SEES THE CARNAGE CAUSED BY THE SPHERE...

THE CHAOS IT WREAKS ON ALL WHO COME IN CONTACT WITH IT...

...AND HE WONDERS IF THERE'S SOMETHING ELSE HE COULD DO...

SOMETHING SAFER.

AS HE RACES UP ALONGSIDE THE SPHERE...

KNOWING HE COULDN'T FIGHT HIS WAY INSIDE FROM THE GROUND...

...THERE WAS REALLY ONLY ONE LOGICAL CHOICE.

STRIKE IT FROM ABOVE...

...AND LET GRAVITY DO THE WORK.

ALL RIGHT, SNAKEBITE...

...SHOW ME WHAT YOU CAN DO!

THE SN250, AFFECTIONATELY CALLED THE SNAKEBITE, IS DESIGNED TO FIRE OVER 50,000 WATTS OF FOCUSED ELECTRICITY IN A NARROW STREAM.

STOP THIS.

I CAN'T HEAR YOU.

THANK

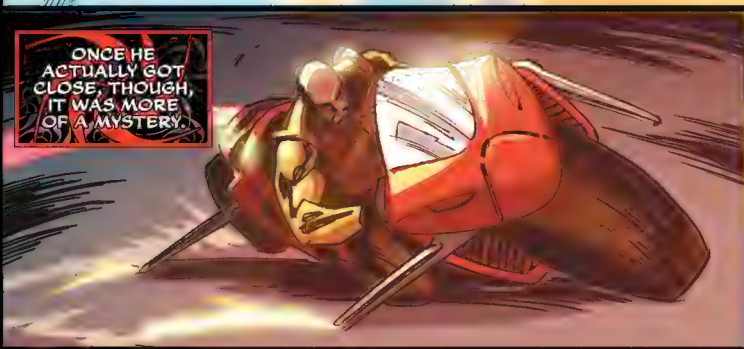
BUT APPREHENSION QUICKLY TURNS TO EXHILARATION...



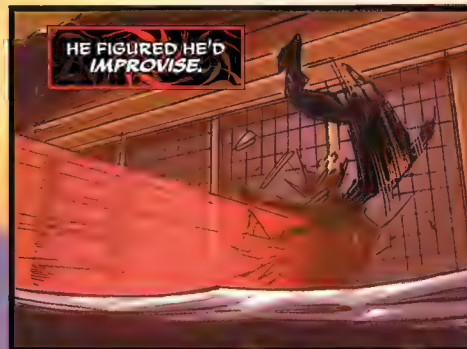
IN THEORY, BENOIST BELIEVED THE SNAKEBITE COULD CARVE A HOLE THROUGH THE MAGIC...



AND THE POCKET OF IONIZED ENERGY IN FRONT OF HIM WOULD ALLOW JUST A COUPLE OF SECONDS OF SAFETY INSIDE THE SPHERE.



ONCE HE ACTUALLY GOT CLOSE, THOUGH, IT WAS MORE OF A MYSTERY.



HE FIGURED HE'D IMPROVISE.



BUT AS THE CHAOTIC, ENCHANTED ENERGY BOMBARDS HIM, HE FEELS ITS EFFECTS QUICKLY.

AS CIRCUITS AND SYNAPSES ALIKE ARE DISRUPTED, HE KNOWS HE HASN'T MUCH TIME.



NGGHHH...
REN... YOU GOTTA
WAKE UP!



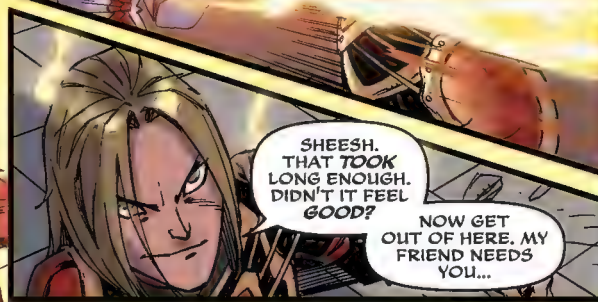
REN!!!

WHAAK



ENOUGH!

THWOOSH

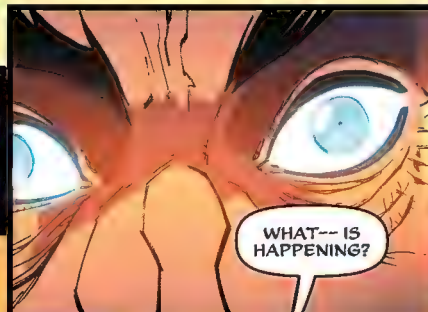


SHEESH.
THAT TOOK
LONG ENOUGH.
DIDN'T IT FEEL
GOOD?

NOW GET
OUT OF HERE. MY
FRIEND NEEDS
YOU...



C'MON, REN,
YOU GOTTA
WAKE UP--



WHAT-- IS
HAPPENING?



I WAS KINDA
HOPING YOU'D
TELL ME.

IT'S MAGIC--
PURE AND
UNBRIDLED.

THEN IT'S
TIME WE
BRIDLED
IT!!!

I HAVE A
WAY, I THINK,
BUT RIGHT NOW
THIS SPHERE IS
TOO BIG!

I BELIEVE I CAN GAIN CONTROL OVER THE POWER, BUT ONLY FOR A MOMENT.

THAT'S ALL I NEED.

VERY WELL...

VNNNNNN

VNNNNNN

IT IS TIME--
QUICKLY!!!

HOPE THIS WORKS...

...WHICH, WHEN COMBINED WITH THE MAGIC OF THIS WORLD, WOULD CAUSE A NEGATION OF BOTH ENERGIES.

CLIK

A SORT OF ELECTROMAGNETIC PULSE FOR 'MAGIC'.

NOW--
GET AWAY
BEFORE--

IT'S SO SMALL--
SO FRAGILE-- BUT
WITHIN THIS TINY
DEVICE LIES A STORE
OF POLARIZED ENERGY
HARNESSED FROM
THE EVERLANDS...

THAT WAS
THE THEORY,
ANYWAY.

KERRAKKABOOM

NOW, A FACT.

THANK YOU,
BENOIST.

I'M JUST
HAPPY WE'RE
ALL STILL IN
ONE PIECE.

BUT HOW
DID THIS
HAPPEN?

IT'S MALIKAI.
SOMETHING HAS
HAPPENED TO
HIM.

WHERE
IS HE?

THAT
I DON'T
KNOW...

...BUT THE PATH OF
THIS DEVASTATION IS
NO COINCIDENCE--

--THE ANSWER
LIES THERE, AT
MOUNT FUJI.

TO BE CONTINUED IN...

SOULFIRE Grace#1
ON SALE NOW!

SEARCH FOR THE LIGHT

MICHAEL TURNER'S
SOULFIRE

HOPE-DESPAIR-FAITH-POWER-GRACE

Grace

J.T. KHUL

PASQUALE QUALANO • MARK ROSLAN

BETH SOTELO • DANNY CURRIE • JEFF REED



#1

COVER A



SEARCH FOR THE LIGHT

MICHAEL TURNER'S
SOULFIRE

GRACE
Grace

WRITTEN BY
PASSIONALE QUALANO & MARK ROSLAN
WITH SOFIE LO & DAVID CURIEL / JOSH BILLO



#**1**

COVER B



SEARCH FOR THE LIGHT

HOPE · DESPAIR · FAITH · POWER · GRACE

MICHAEL TURNER'S
SOULFIRE
Grace

Story—

J.T. KRUL

Pencils—

PASQUALE QUALANO

Colors—

BETH SOTELO (pgs 10-20), DAVID CURIEL (pgs 1-9)

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MICHAEL TURNER'S SOULFIRE™ GRACE

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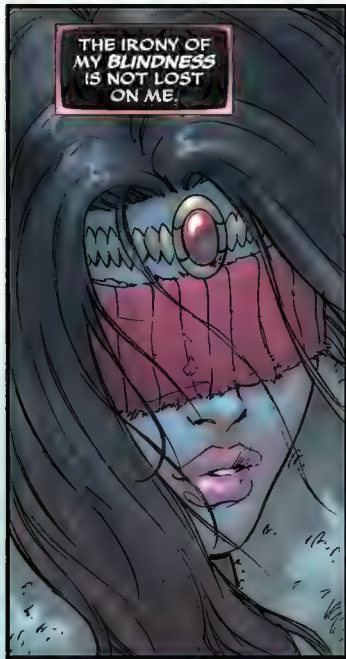
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THE IRONY OF
MY *BLINDNESS*
IS NOT LOST
ON ME.



AS A *MASTER OF THE SAMUSARA*, THE MAGIC
GAVE ME TREMENDOUS
CLAIRVOYANCE.

THE DUTY
TO *GUIDE* WITHOUT
INFLUENCE-- WAITING
AND WATCHING AS *FATE*
UNFOLDED BEFORE
THE REST OF THE
WORLD.

BUT THE
MAGIC HAS BECOME
ERRATIC... UNSTABLE...
CHAOTIC.

I SEE *NOTHING*.
NOT THE FUTURE, NOR
THE PRESENT.

AND FOR THE FIRST
TIME, I FIND MYSELF
FORGING A PATH INTO
THE *UNKNOWN*.

BUT
I AM NOT
WANDERING
LOST.

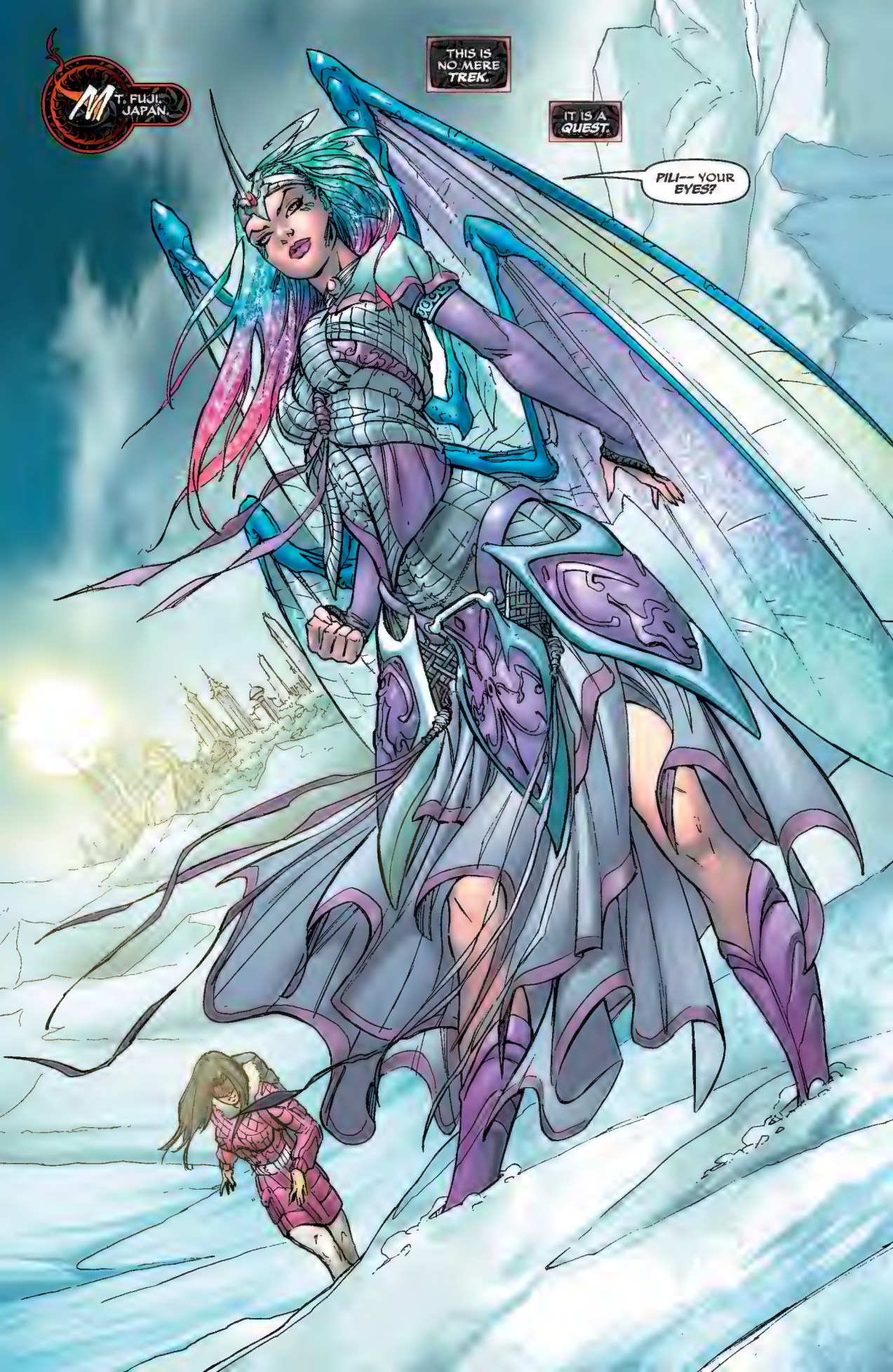




THIS IS
NO MERE
TREK.

IT IS A
QUEST.

PILI-- YOUR
EYES?



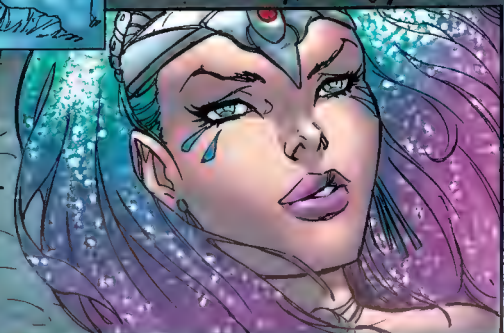


YES, I'D SAY
IT WAS GOOD TO
SEE YOU, *GRACE*, BUT
OBLIVIOUSLY THAT IS
NOT THE CASE, NOT
IN THE LITERAL
SENSE.

DON'T WORRY
THOUGH. I MAY NOT
SEE WHERE I AM, BUT
I KNOW WHERE I
AM GOING.



I ENVY
YOU THEN.
I FEEL MORE
LOST THAN
EVER.



GRACE'S BURDEN IS
GREATER THAN ANY OF THE
OTHER MASTERS. HER DUTY
WAS TO PROTECT *MALIKAI*
AS HE FULFILLED HIS DESTINY
AS THE *SAMUSARA*.



OVERALL, SHE SUCCEEDED.
THE NEXT AGE OF *MAGIC* IS UPON
US, BUT THE *BOY* SUFFERED TERRIBLY--
ULTIMATELY *SACRIFICING* HIMSELF TO
STOP THE GREAT *CHAOS* OF HIS OWN
POWER FROM DESTROYING
EVERYTHING.

GRACE IS
DESPERATE TO
PROVE THAT *MALIKAI*
IS NOT *DEAD*. THAT HIS
SOUL REMAINS
INTACT.

THAT'S WHY
SHE CAME TO
THIS PLACE.

AS DID
THE REST
OF US--

--THE FIVE MASTERS
OF THE SAMUSARA
HAVE COME TOGETHER
TO SAVE THE LIGHT.

REN HELPED MALIKAI TAP INTO
HIS TRUE POTENTIAL-- EXPLORING
THE VAST SCOPE OF THE POWER
SUCH MAGIC BRINGS.

FAYE AND SARIN
REPRESENT THE
DICHOTOMY OF THE
TWO ANCIENT RACES
OF MAGIC, QUEEN OF
THE RAHTUMI AND
KING OF THE
SETHORI.

SHE IS THE
MASTER WE HAVE
BEEN WAITING
FOR?

A BLIND GIRL TO
LEAD THE WAY TO
FINDING THE MISSING
SAMUSARA? IS THIS
A JOKE?

AN ARROGANT
TONE FOR ONE THAT
ONLY RECENTLY BECAME
A MASTER OF THE
SAMUSARA, SARIN.

I COULD FILL AN
OCEAN WITH YOUR LACK
OF UNDERSTANDING.

HARDLY,
FAYE. I'M
A NATURAL.
IT'S IN MY
BLOOD





IGNORE HIM, PILI. SARIN HAS YET TO GRASP THE MAGNITUDE OF THE **LEGACY** HIS FATHER LEFT FOR HIM. WE WERE ALL SADDENED TO HEAR OF THE LOSS OF YOUR FATHER. **KAMEA** WAS A TESTAMENT TO ALL THAT WAS GOOD AND PURE IN THIS WORLD.

THANK YOU. HE LIVED ACCORDING TO HIS **DESTINY**. AND GREETED DEATH WITH OPEN ARMS.

OF ALL THE MASTERS, I THOUGHT YOU WOULD BE THE **LAST** TO ARRIVE, **REN**. EVEN IF WE ARE IN YOUR **BACKYARD**

NO ONE DOUBTED THE **STRENGTH** OF MALIKAI'S **SPIRIT** MORE THAN I DID, BUT I GUESS THE BOY TAUGHT ME AS MUCH AS I TAUGHT HIM.



NOW, I FIND MYSELF TRYING TO EMULATE HIS **RESOLVE** AS MY POWER **SURGES** OUT OF CONTROL. A LAST GASP BEFORE THE **END** OF IT ALL-- I FEAR.



IF THIS WERE THE DYING OF THE LIGHT, OUR POWERS WOULD BE DEPLETING, NOT GOING WILD. THE DRAGONS WOULD BE DEAD INSTEAD OF MISSING.

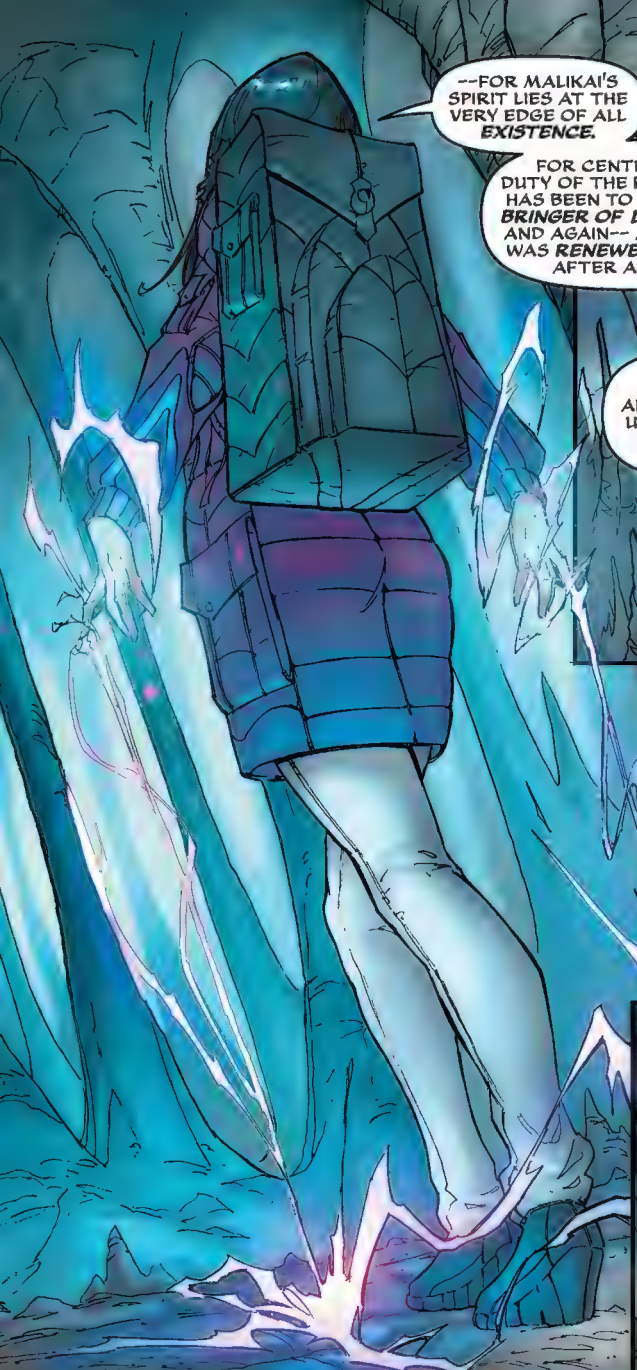
AND-- OUR WINGS WOULD BE WITHERING AWAY BEFORE OUR VERY EYES.

MALIKAI IS NOT BEYOND OUR **REACH**. I BELIEVE IT.



WHAT'S THE PLAN, THEN?

ONLY TOGETHER WILL WE HAVE A CHANCE TO FREE HIM--



--FOR MALIKAI'S
SPIRIT LIES AT THE
VERY EDGE OF ALL
EXISTENCE.

FOR CENTURIES, THE
DUTY OF THE FIVE MASTERS
HAS BEEN TO PREPARE THE
BRINGER OF LIGHT-- AGAIN
AND AGAIN-- AS THE SPIRIT
WAS RENEWED IN ONE LIFE
AFTER ANOTHER.

FOR THE
FIRST TIME IN
ALL OF HISTORY, THAT
UNIQUE SPIRIT IS NOT
IN THIS WORLD. IT
IS **TRAPPED**.

THE ONLY
VISIONS MADE
CLEAR TO ME HAVE
BEEN THAT OF UTTER
TORMENT. MALIKAI'S
ETERNAL SUFFERING.
SIGNS OF A DANGER
BEYOND WORDS...



...SHROUDED IN
RED AND BLACK.
THE ULTIMATE
DESTROYER OF
WORLDS.



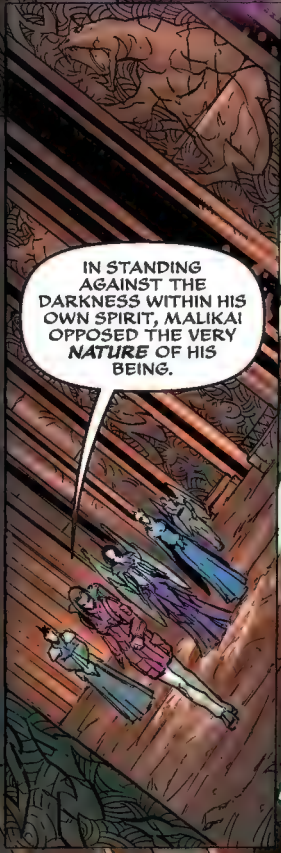
WE MUST
RETURN HIS
SPIRIT TO THIS
WORLD...

...OR ALL
WILL BE
LOST.



WHERE ARE WE? DEEPER WITHIN THE EARTH?

I'M NOT EVEN SURE THIS IS OUR WORLD ANYMORE.



IN STANDING AGAINST THE DARKNESS WITH HIS OWN SPIRIT, MALIKAI OPPOSED THE VERY NATURE OF HIS BEING.



CHALLENGING ONE OF THE PRIMARY FORCES IN OUR UNIVERSE.
CHAOS.

ONLY THROUGH OUR POWER CAN WE GAIN ENTRANCE.
REN-- YOU MUST OPEN THE GATEWAY.



MOST OF MY LIFE, I THOUGHT THIS WAS ALL WASTED EFFORT. THAT WE WERE MERELY DREAMING OF MAGIC'S RETURN.



MALIKAI SHOWED ME THAT IT COULD RETURN IN ALL ITS GLORY.
I DON'T WANT TO LOSE THAT AGAIN. NOT SO SOON. IT'S NOT FAIR.



W-WHAT'S DOWN THERE?

STAMMERED LIKE A TRUE KING, SARIN.

THIS IS BEYOND
ANYTHING WE'VE EVER
ENCOUNTERED.

YES-- BUT
OUR PATH IS
CLEAR.

SPEAK FOR
YOURSELF. I
CAN'T SEE A
THING.

IT IS
A GREAT
ABYSS.

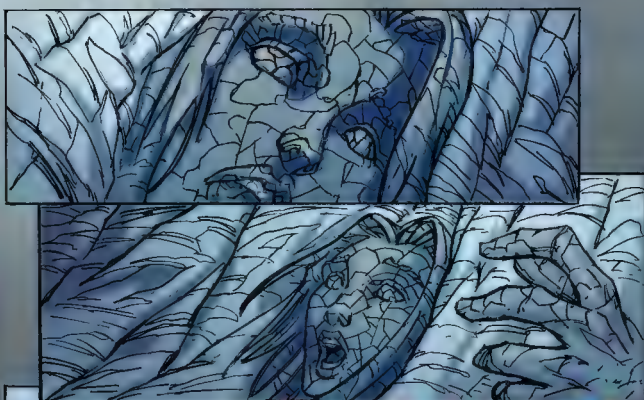
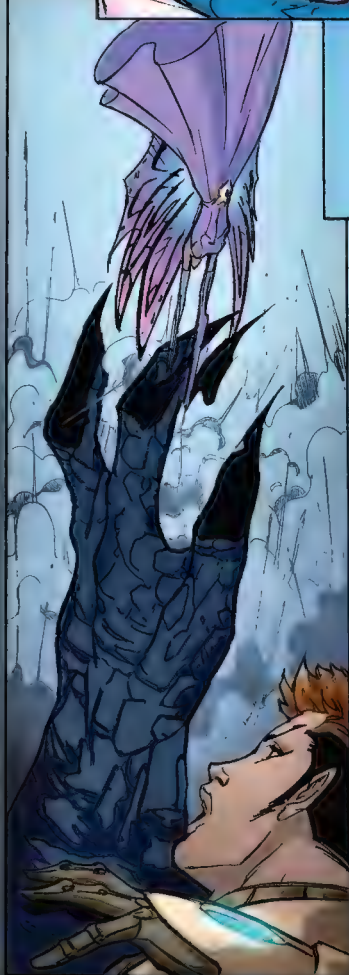
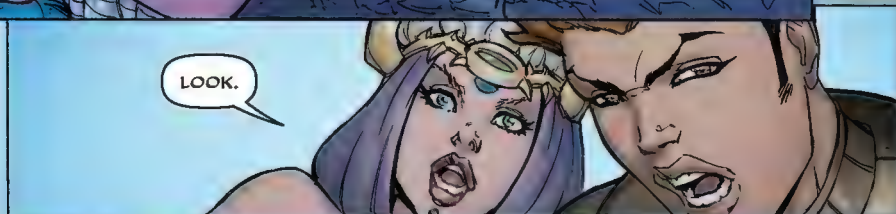
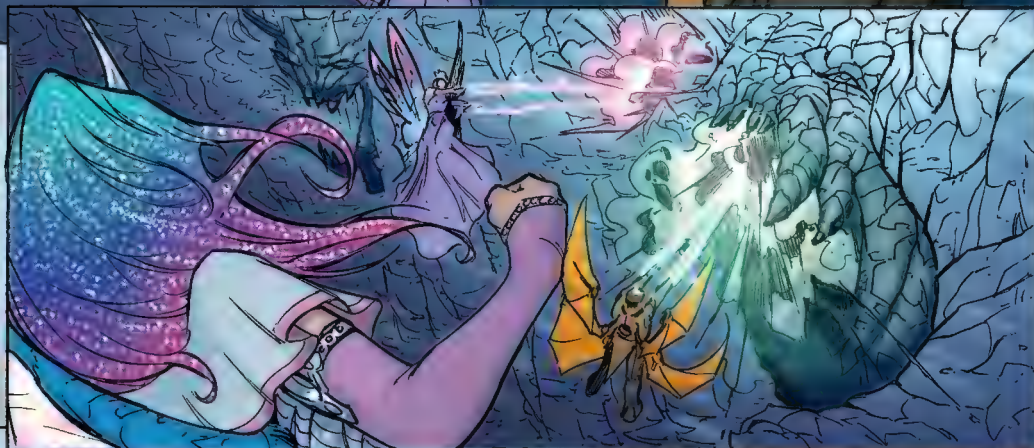
THERE.
AHEAD.

THIS
APPEARS TO
BE A DEAD-
END

YOU ARE
NOT ALTOGETHER
WRONG, FAYE.

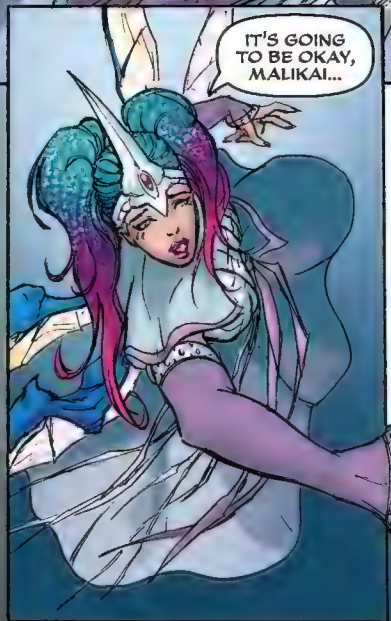
IT IS AN
END



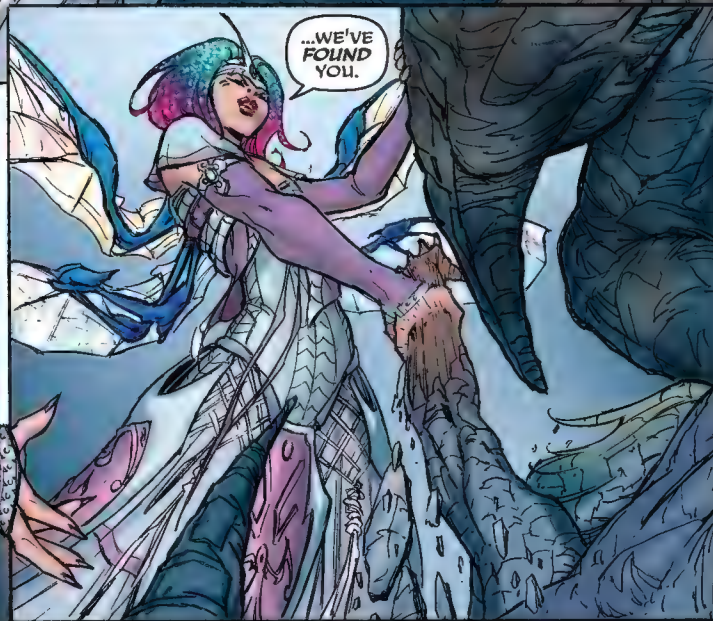




HE'S
TRAPPED IN
THIS HELL.



IT'S GOING
TO BE OKAY,
MALIKAI...

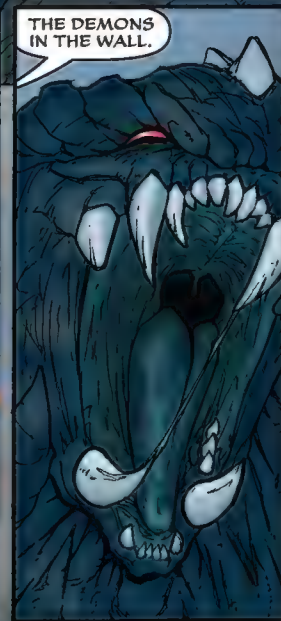


...WE'VE
FOUND
YOU.



WHAT'S THAT
NOISE?

KKKTUTHHH



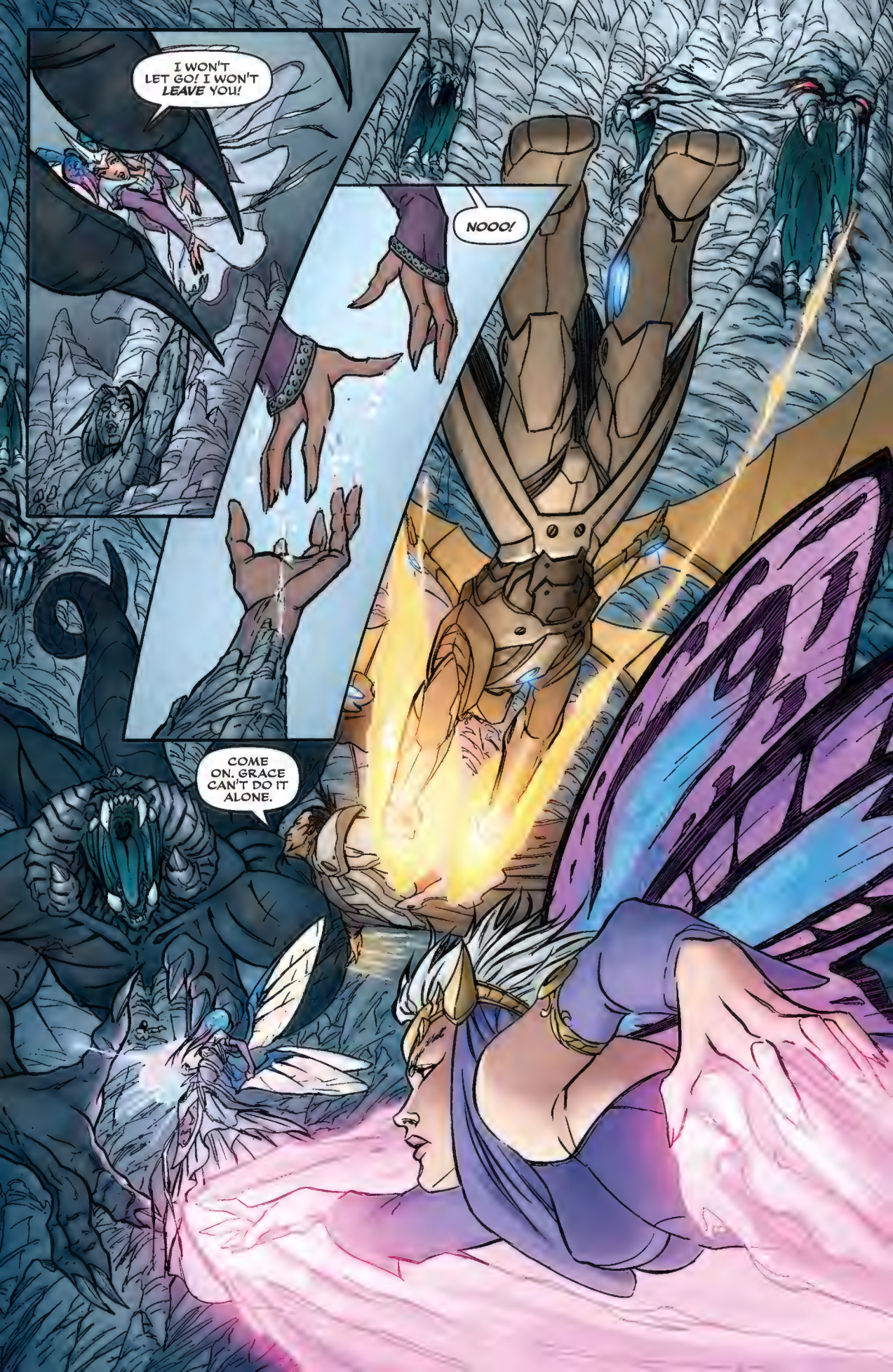
THE DEMONS
IN THE WALL.



GWWRR!

GRAAWR!

THEY
LIVE.



I WON'T
LET GO! I WON'T
LEAVE YOU!

NOOO!

COME
ON, GRACE
CAN'T DO IT
ALONE.

FWOOOSH

MALIKAI!

FOCUS ON GETTING MALIKAI, GRACE. WE'LL DEAL WITH THESE CREATURES.

FIGHT IT!

GRROAAR

DAMN YOU...





HANG ON.
EVERYTHING
IS GOING TO
BE OKAY.



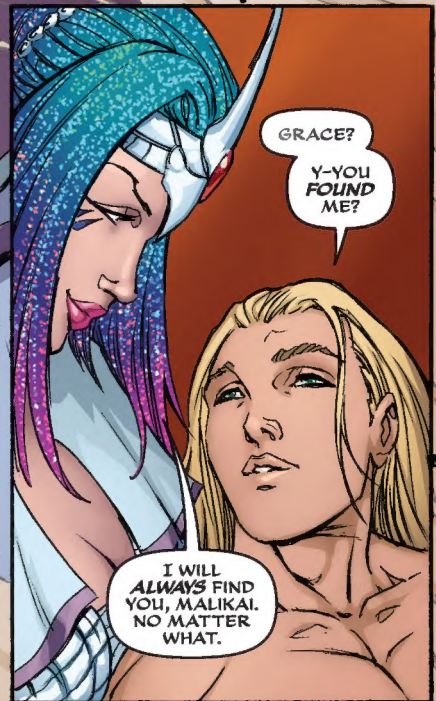
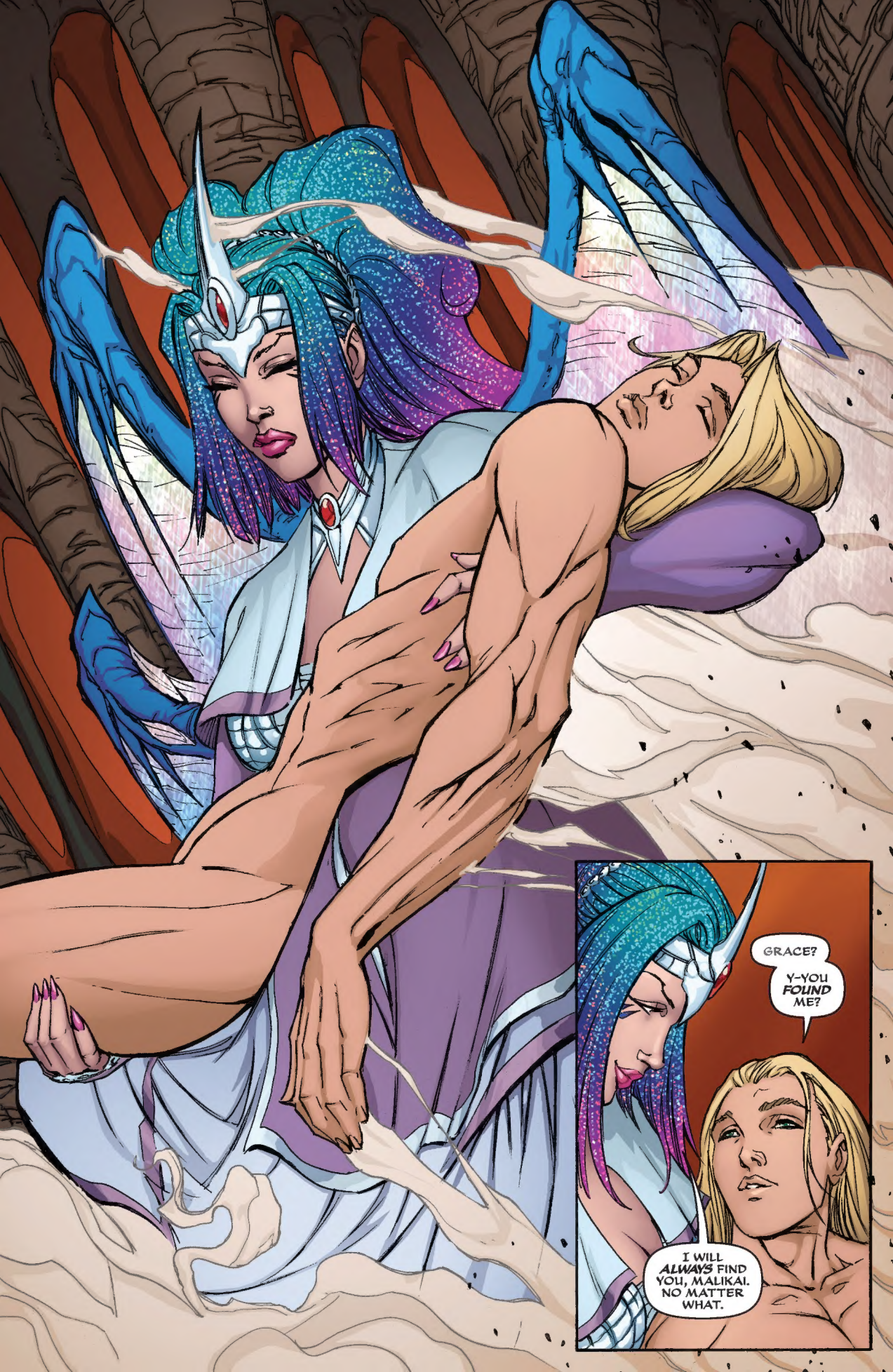
KEEP
MOVING!



PREPARE
TO CLOSE THIS
PORTAL!
NOW!



AHHHH!



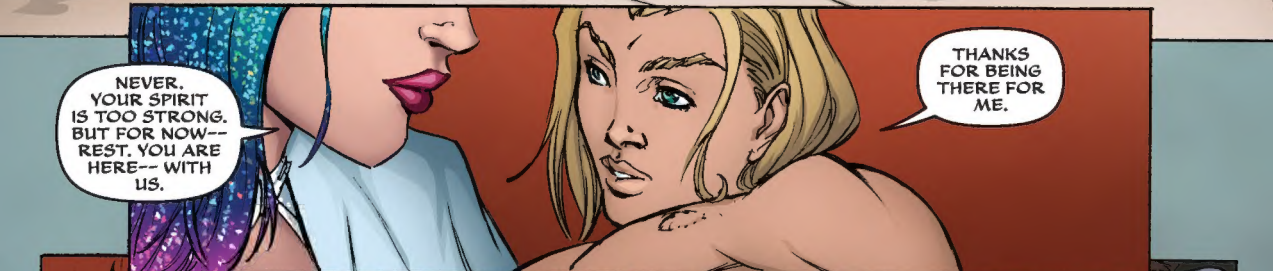


WELL,
THAT WAS
FUN. LET'S DO
THAT AGAIN--
NEVER.

I THINK
WE CAN AGREE
ON THAT MUCH,
SARIN.

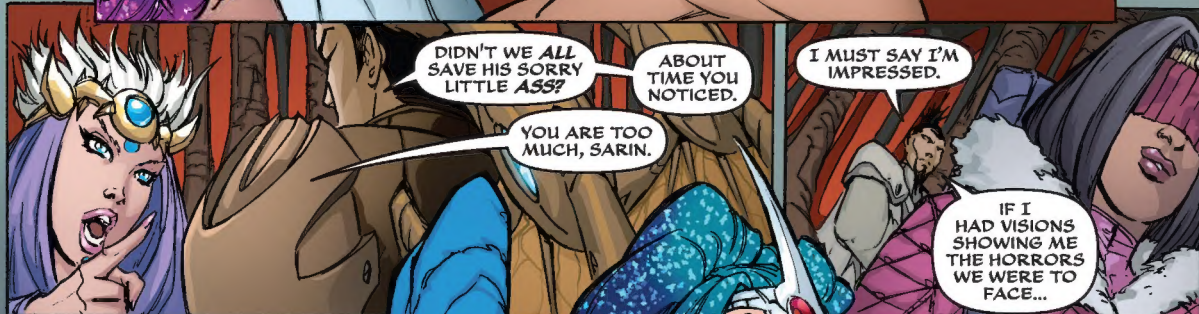
THE HOLE
IS SEALED UP. AS
IF IT WAS NEVER
DISTURBED.

I... I
THOUGHT
I WAS DEAD.
LOST IN THERE
FOREVER.



NEVER.
YOUR SPIRIT
IS TOO STRONG.
BUT FOR NOW--
REST. YOU ARE
HERE-- WITH
US.

THANKS
FOR BEING
THERE FOR
ME.



DIDN'T WE ALL
SAVE HIS SORRY
LITTLE ASS?

ABOUT
TIME YOU
NOTICED.

YOU ARE TOO
MUCH, SARIN.

I MUST SAY I'M
IMPRESSED.

IF I
HAD VISIONS
SHOWING ME
THE HORRORS
WE WERE TO
FACE...



...I'M NOT SURE I WOULD
HAVE HAD THE COURAGE TO
COME ON THIS MISSION.

THOSE
CREATURES
ARE NOT WHAT I
SAW, REN. IT WAS
SOMETHING
ELSE.

SOMETHING
FAR WORSE.